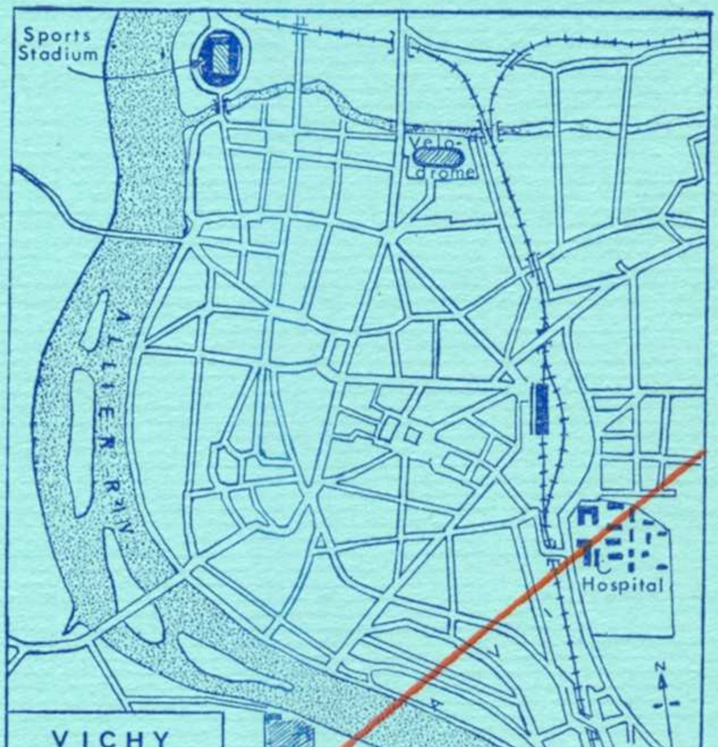
FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

MAY - JUNE 1965

VOLUME II, No. 3 **11th YEAR OF PUBLICATION**

The 1954 sighting at Vichy was made by the Rugby team, and spectators ...



... but the BAVIC line passed over the southern part of the town. Were AIME MICHEL'S calculations wrong ?

See ... REFLECTIONS OF AN HONEST LIAR

Also ...

OPPOSITION FLAP, 1965

The bi-monthly
Journal of
SPACE

Editor:
Charles Bowen

Consultant:
Gordon Creighton, M.A., F.R.G.S.

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Drawings and Maps by PAULINE BOWEN

1965
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FLYING SAUCER REVIEW

INCORPORATING FLYING SAUCER NEWS

Vol 11 No. 3 MAY-JUNE 1965

A Trojan Horse?

SELDOM in the recent history of UFOs, flying saucers, and allied phenomena—since 1947, that is—has there been such world-wide activity as during the past fifteen months. Seldom in the history of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW have we witnessed such a marked and intelligent interest in our subject as is being displayed at this moment. Indeed, these are such exciting times that we are encouraged to believe that if the pressure is maintained, let alone if it grows, the truth must surely be admitted officially.

In this issue and the last, our factual reports and *World Round-Up* columns bear witness to this upsurge of activity, whilst our *Mail Bag* feature contains proof enough of the growth of interest. Readers' letters, most of them containing sensible comment or constructive criticism, have cascaded into our office. This is as it should be. Our only sorrow is that we have insufficient space to publish everything we receive.

It is plain for anyone who cares to see, that there is a genuine growth of interest in a subject which, according to the "Air Ministries", the "Air Forces" and the die-hard sceptics of this World, does not exist. Yet in spite of the "curtains of silence", and a studied reluctance in some quarters of the press even to discuss the subject, there is a relatively new and vibrantly active world of people who believe that something very strange is going on in space around our planet, in our skies and on our land. Because they see the evidence, or understand what others see, these people want to study the phenomenon, and here is the very reason for the existence, and success of the REVIEW.

It is into this exciting new world that one of the great sceptics of our time projects himself.

No one will deny that Dr. Donald Menzel is great in his own sphere of astronomy and mathematics. And when we are assured by one of our contributors that the Harvard astrophysicist is a "great guy", we do not quarrel with that assessment. However, we have long opposed that other side of Dr. Menzel which seeks relentlessly to denigrate our subject, to explain away good sightings and well-authenticated reports by well-worn and often tedious rationalisations such as temperature inversions, or light reflections from cloud bases.

There are many among our sympathisers who ask why we bother ourselves with Dr. Menzel. Surely, however, we should ask why so eminent a person should bother himself with a small journal such as ours. That is an intriguing question, and we ask ourselves whether or not the worthy doctor believes that if he can undermine the orthotenists, he will cause the whole UFO edifice to crumble. The only alternative which we can envisage, is that there is a more subtle reason.

That possibility will be considered later.

Elsewhere in these pages there appears an article by Dr. Menzel entitled *Orthoteny—A Lost Cause*, wherein he returns to the attack on the Aimé Michel discovery which opened up a completely new field of flying saucer research.

To the laymen among us—and we hazard a guess that that means more than 90 per cent of those who are interested in this subject—the concept of orthoteny is not so much one of technicalities or of mathematics, but of something very practical which made a considerable impact when announced. When it was shown that numbers of sightings on given days fell along straight lines when plotted on a map, most investigators realised that here was proof that UFOs are real, and not merely hallucinations, or the day-dreams of romancers. When it was later demonstrated that sightings recur on these lines, and that other sightings have been confirmed along global extensions of these same lines, we were even more impressed.

There are "purists" who prefer to call the lines bands or "corridors", but even if the lines are proved to be corridors, this REVIEW feels that it is a refinement which in no way lessens the impact of the discovery.

Before we proceed further, however, there is one thing which must not be forgotten: the case put forward by Aimé Michel and his friends is very impressive, but this flying saucer business does not begin and end with orthoteny. Had the discovery never been made, we would still have been subjected to exactly the same number of UFO visitations and "flaps" as we have experienced since we first knew about the enigmatic multi-point lines. In our view, the only difference is that the enigma might have been just a little more puzzling than it is today. As for the future, we are convinced that some new and practical application of orthoteny, or some new idea which may well be developed from the original concept, may yet point a way to unravelling the flying saucer mystery.

While the mathematical considerations of orthoteny are obviously of concern only to a minority among our readers, it is against this aspect that Dr. Menzel has chosen to wield the bludgeon of his statistics. This is a continuation of the assault he first launched at the invitation of our late editor in the March/April number of 1964. Even without M. Michel's brilliant reply which follows the Menzel article in this issue, and even without the examination of the Menzel statistics which will follow later, doubts are entertained that interest in UFOs will fall away as a result of any attempt to prove orthoteny wrong by mathematical juggling. That interest, and likewise the reasoning of the orthotenists, depends purely and simply on sightings, and there is no shortage of sightings.

Is there then, as suggested earlier, some more subtle reason behind our worthy opponent's affinity for this journal? Is it, as has been suggested by some of our friends, that this latest Menzel assault is part of a plan to discourage readers and adherents to the subject, by cluttering up the pages of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW with wearisome statistical debate and boring technicaltities? That in effect he aims to become a ufological fifth columnist, a latter-day Trojan Horse?

We do not take this suggestion too seriously, but whatever our opponent's aims, we are convinced that the only way to scotch falsehoods is by public debate. Our readers will be well able to judge the issue for themselves as Dr. Menzel, the anti-saucer exponent, once again parades his views on orthoteny, and the points he makes are answered, as is only right, by the author of that discovery. There is much that is instructive and of absorbing interest in this debate about a feature of the greatest flying saucer wave of all time. Indeed we should be thankful to Dr. Menzel, for it is his persistent nagging at a minor point which has provided the opportunity for a further revelation of the irreproachable methods of M. Michel and his associates. We see something of the painstaking objective study which enabled the researchers to present the exciting evidence of the straight lines. A paramount example of this is the instance of the sightings by the members of the Vichy rugby team, which amply demonstrates the rewards attendant upon such objectivity.

Another point: it should not be forgotten that it has long been the policy of this REVIEW to encourage some measure of technical discussion: ample material will be found elsewhere in our pages for those who do not savour technicalities. When the Menzel statistics appear in the next issue, and are examined in the issue after that by Dr. Avez, a professional mathematician of our own choice, the load will have been carefully spread over three well-balanced issues. Our subscribers may rest assured we have no intention of becoming the ANTIFLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

The great wave of current UFO events has obliged us to hold over several promised articles until the next issue. These include W. R. Drake's "Space Gods of Ancient Britain", "The Russian Wall Paintings" and "Postscript to the Most Amazing Case of All"

Opposition Flap 1965

WITH an opposition of the planet Mars impending, we knew we could expect redoubled UFO activity in the early part of 1965. The 1964 "South-Western flap" in the USA was heavy enough, and that was without an "opposition". There was no slackening off of reports from South America, and many other places, and we were also "in business" in the British Isles on many occasions. It was difficult, therefore, to imagine a stepping-up of intensity this year, yet we can now report that there has been a very pronounced new flap, particularly in the area of the Eastern seaboard States of the USA.

Opening gambit

The first report was on December 21, 1964, from Roanoke, Virginia, where a UFO landed briefly and stopped the engine of a car.

Mr. Horace Burns, a gunsmith who runs a small business on North Main Street, Harrisonburg, was driving in his stationwagon on Route 250 towards Waynesboro' in the Shenandoah Valley. It was about 5 p.m. A huge metallic object came down out of the sky from the North, and passed over the road about 200 feet ahead of him. His car's engine stopped with an abrupt jerk, whilst the UFO landed lightly, "like a bubble" in a small meadow, at a spot some 100 yards from the road.

Mr. Burns pushed his car over to the side of the road and stood there watching in amazement. He says the UFO resembled an inverted toy spinning-top, some 125 feet in diameter, and at least 80 to 90 feet high. In addition to the general cone shape, he noticed that its circular sloping sides rose in six large concentric convolutions which decreased in diameter to a dome on the top.

It was beginning to get dark, but Mr. Burns saw quite clearly that the object was metallic. It looked like aluminium. All around the perimeter at the base of the machine was a glowing bluish-coloured band about 12 to 18 inches wide. He could see no doors, windows, or portholes, and no seams or joints. Nor did there seem to be any landing gear. The machine had gently settled "flat on its bottom on the ground", although the underside was seen to be slightly curved.

No occupants showed themselves, and the UFO stayed immobile for about 60 to 90 seconds. Then, with a "whoosh", it suddenly rose straight up for several hundred feet, and at once sped away towards the North-East. The departure speed was *much* greater than the approach speed (Mr. Burns estimated that when it arrived, it had crossed the road before him at about 15 m.p.h.)

Mr. Burns at once got back into his car, and found that it started without difficulty. An amazed man, he drove home and told his wife, but was afraid to mention the affair to anyone else until six days later, when he and Mrs. Burns heard an announcement by the local broadcasting station, WSVA, that there was a UFO investigation club at the Eastern Mennonite College in Harrisonburg. Relieved, he told his story to the announcer, Jim Shipp, who passed the news on to the College. Members of the investigation group later called over to tape Mr. Burns' statement.

Radioactivity

On Wednesday December 30, nine days after the landing, Professor Ernest Gehman of the Eastern Mennonite College set out to examine the landing area. He had with him a Geiger counter. It is interesting to note that Mr. Burns was to have gone to the meadow with him, but was prevented from doing so at the last moment by urgent business. He was therefore only able to tell the investigator which meadow to go to. Nevertheless, Professor Gehman swiftly found the precise spot: his Geiger counter registered radioactivity of over 60,000 counts per minute! At this point he was joined by a Mr. Harry Cook, a research engineer of Duponts, and another engineer, a Mr. Funk. These two men were able to confirm the findings, and they also established that when all three of them stood near the dial of the Geiger counter, their bodies seemed to shield out many of the rays, for the needle fell back considerably. From this they concluded that the radiation was of the *alpha* type, and not of the more dangerous *gamma* type.

We understand that a closely-typed six-page report was submitted by Professor Gehman to NICAP: he has also sent Mr. Gordon Creighton a copy.

U.S.A.F. "Investigation"

On January 12, 1965, two Air Force sergeants arrived from Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Mr. Burns and Professor Gehman went with them to the field, and the latter noted with pleasure that the spot indicated by Mr. Burns for the landing was the precise spot found by him. Despite much rain and snow during the preceeding two weeks, the Air Force men's Geiger counter still recorded radioactivity.

Professor Gehman's report to NICAP is vitally

important, because it is in this that he describes in minute detail how the two servicemen contrived to brush off and deny this evidence. It happened like this: The two N.C.Os. were Tech/Sgt D. Moody and Staff/Sgt H. Jones. It is presumed that this is the same Sgt. Moody whose somewhat flippant attitude and personal rudeness had so startled Mrs. Coral Lorenzen and her husband at the Socorro investigation, (see A.P.R.O. *Bulletin* for May, 1964).

In addition to Professor Gehman and Mr. Burns, Miss Claire Weaver of the College UFO group, and a newspaper reporter witnessed the tests for radioactivity made by Sgt. Moody with his model 2586 Beta-Gamma Survey Meter. The checks were made at about 8 or 10 spots, and in each case, the sergeant had to kick aside some four inches of snow. On the first two tests, the needle of the meter was seen to start rising, whereupon the Air Force N.C.O. ejaculated, and made a swift adjustment of a control. As the needle sank back, he observed: "See, no radiation here!" On the third test, the meter was plunged too sharply into a clump of grass, a thin film at the end was punctured by stubble. The needle shot up, but after examination of the punctured film and another subtle adjustment, a further application of the meter showed no reading.

Despite this apparent "wangling", the two N.C.Os. seemed impressed enough to suggest that this would be one of those rare occurrences—where the Air Force is concerned–an unexplained sighting.

It has just been made known, furthermore, that many householders in the area of the landing reported serious dimming of lights, and the complete stoppage of radio and T.V. sets for several minutes around 5 p.m. on December 21.

Nevertheless, the final Air Force report, dated January 27, 1965, finds that there had been **no sighting of a UFO by Mr. Burns, no landing, and no radioactivity.** A typical observation in the report was that there was no evidence that grass and weeds had been flattened or broken over any large area by an object of significant weight. Yet during the "investigation", no attempt was made to remove the blanket of snow to look for such evidence. It so happens that the field contained good quality, mowed grass, with no clumps of weed and long grasses with brittle stalks.

4,800 m.p.h. objects

The next development, it appears, was that on December 29, 1964, at Patuxant Naval Air Station, Maryland, two UFOs were tracked by radar at 4,800 m.p.h. They approached the station, and then veered off after doing right-angle turns. This report found its way into the pages of the *Daily Telegraph*, and the London *Evening Standard*, as well as many provincial newspapers. Even so, it was January 6, 1965, before it appeared. This item was quoted in the STOP PRESS column of the January/February number of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

When we learned that this case had been reported to the USAF for investigation, we ventured the remark that that was the last we would hear of it. As it turned out, it was not quite the last, for Mrs. Coral Lorenzen of APRO now tells us that the USAF has reported that the Naval radar equipment at Patuxent was found to be malfunctioning. "A likely story," observes Mrs. Lorenzen: "Equipment at important stations such as this is checked very frequently, and I think this is another attempt to explain away, as usual, a very good sighting."

On January 5, an engineer reported having seen a round glowing UFO over Wallops Island, Virginia.

According to the *Buffalo Courier-Express* of February 1, two men of Richmond, Virginia, who were travelling in separate cars, each reported having seen a UFO near Williamsburg on January 23. In the Waynesboro'–Staunton area a farmer, a housewife and a high school student had also reported sightings on January 15.

Meeting claimed with extraterrestrials

Our next report has been translated from the GEPA bulletin *Phénomènes Spatiaux* for February, 1965. It was received by Mme. Ackerman of GEPA direct from a Mr. Richard Gooch, of Lynchburg, Virginia. The report states: "About the middle of January, 1965, a witness who does not wish his name to be revealed, was cutting timber [location not stated, except that it was in Virginia]. He saw two UFOs standing on the ground, between 5.40 p.m. and 6.15 p.m. There was no sound or light from either of them. One was about 250 feet in diameter, and the other about 65 feet in diameter. From the smaller craft, which seemed to be of glass or of some very brilliant metal, three beings emerged. They were dark coloured, but their clothing was of the same colour as their craft. They approached to a point only about 12 yards from the witness. Their appearance was human, though one of them had very long fingers. Their regard was penetrating, and they emitted unintelligible sounds. After a moment or so, they turned to re-enter their craft. A door opened, and closed again after they had entered, becoming quite invisible, and seemingly merging with the wall of the craft. The machine then took off and vanished and as it rose from the ground, its interior became lip up."

Unfortunately this report nowhere mentions the

size of the three beings, but evidently it was their faces that were "dark-coloured". It certainly couldn't have been their clothing, for the report clearly states that this was of the same colour as the machine, in other words "like a very brilliant metal, or glass."

Sheriff's warning

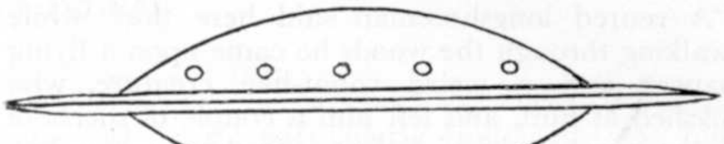
The last week of January seems to have brought a veritable rash of sightings from all over Virginia, and it was at this time that Sheriff John E. Kent of Augusta County, Virginia, made his famous request. It should be remembered that the sheriff was primarily concerned with people who were flashing firearms without the necessary licence. Apart from American newspapers, the *Daily Express* (January 30) and the *Evening Standard* of London, whose headlines read: DON'T SHOOT THE LITTLE GREEN MEN, and IT'S NOT RIGHT TO MOW 'EM DOWN, (February 3), both carried the report of the sheriff's appeal. It was the latter newspaper's item that we featured in the STOP PRESS column of the March/April edition of the REVIEW. The report went on to say that sightings were coming in almost every day from all over the State, and that in many cases people had said that they had seen "little Martians" walking around!

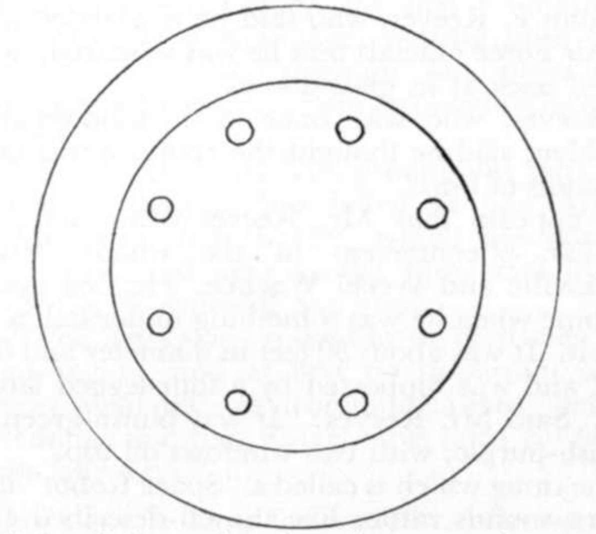
The Marion Saucer

It was during this period, on the evening of January 26, at 8.55 p.m. E.S.T., that the Rev. H. Preston Robinson, assistant pastor of the Church of God at Chilhowie, Virginia, saw a flying saucer hovering at a height of about 600 feet above the town of Marion. In separate letters to both Dr. Bernard Finch and to Gordon Creighton, he furnished sketches which we reproduce on these pages. The machine was flying on a slant when it appeared, "nose down" as it were. It seems to have come from the West, and to have vanished towards the East just before the Echo II satellite passed over; it then returned and hovered over Marion. A row of five portholes was visible at a time on the upper part, and lights were shining down towards the ground from its base.

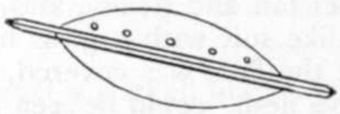
The Rev. Robinson makes no reference to the saucer's estimated size, but said that it made a sound which he describes variously as "buzzing", "swirling" or "fluttering". When in flight, and also when hovering, it was spinning in an anti-clockwise manner. Its passage through the sky was in much the same direction as the course followed by the Echo II satellite a few minutes later. When the UFO returned again after the passage of Echo II, it was at a higher altitude than before. Then, after hovering over Marion, it finally disappeared towards the East, dropping a sort of fire-ball, or bright red light to the ground as it went.

Artist's impression of the UFO seen over Marion, taken from sketches provided by Rev. H. Preston Robinson





Bright lights showing from underneath



When moving, UFO "flew" at an angle

Four other members of the Robinson family also saw this UFO.

Gordon Creighton has made the interesting suggestions that this UFO both sounds, and looks very much like the one in the famous "Brazilian photograph".

As regards the "little men", allegedly seen in some places, the Rev. Robinson writes that these reports are authentic, and accordingly, we have asked him to help us obtain first-hand accounts. It should be noted that Professor Gehman takes a different stand, for he doubts whether any of the "little men" were actually seen at all, and he seems to think that this group of reports, including presumably that of the three beings, are all bogus.

We had just reached this stage in the writing of this report when yet another sensational item reached us.

"Space Robot's" manuscripts

The following account has been culled from a report which appeared in the U.S. Army weekly *Stars & Stripes*. Our extract does not bear a date, but as the report was from the UPI agency, we have ascertained that it went out on the tapes on March 3. Note that the locality of this incident was

in Florida, not over-far from Cape Kennedy, the space-vehicle launching base. The article carries the headline: FLYING SAUCER RIDER LEFT WRITING. It continues: Brooksville, Florida. "A retired longshoreman said here that while walking through the woods he came upon a flying saucer and a weird robot-like creature who flashed at him, and left him a couple of sheets of 'very queer writing' before speeding away into space.

"John F. Reeves, who said he is past sixty, told the Air Force officials that he was so scared, he just 'stared back at its glass dome'.

"Reeves, who was once a longshoreman in Brooklyn, said he thought the creature was taking snapshots of him."

It appears that Mr. Reeves came across the peculiar phenomenon in the woods between Brooksville and Weeki Wachee. He first saw the machine when he was something under half a mile from it. It was about 30 feet in diameter and 6 feet high, and was supported by a four-legged landing gear. Said Mr. Reeves: "It was bluish-green and reddish-purple, with two windows on top."

The thing which is called a "Space Robot" in the report, sounds rather like the oft-described entity wearing space uniform. Whatever it was, it was about five feet tall and stocky, and was wearing a grey canvas-like suit with a glass helmet. Everything except the face was covered, but it seemed that "dark tan flesh" could be seen (strange that a robot should have flesh). "The eyes were farther apart, and the chin was more pointed than in the case of a human being," observed Mr. Reeves, who continued: "It walked over to within about 15 feet of me, and looked straight at me. I just stared back at his glass dome. It didn't make a sound, and just stared at me. I just couldn't even blink an eye, I was so scared."

It was at this stage that the creature lifted a black, six-inch diameter object, (which Mr. Reeves thinks was a camera), placed it to its chin and pointed it at him. The object emitted a flash. As it flashed a second time, Mr. Reeves took off for the bushes. There was one more flash, and then the strange entity returned to its machine. As it went, it dropped two pieces of cloth-like paper. When Mr. Reeves later retrieved these, he found them to be covered with unintelligible writing.

After the so-called robot had entered the machine, the witness said that blades on the rim worked open and shut like Venetian blinds. "Then", he said, "The rim started going round in an anti-clockwise direction. There was a whistling and a rumbling noise, and the saucer started straight up. It was out of sight in 10 seconds. I would say it went at 5,000 m.p.h., or even faster."

Mr. Reeves gave the papers, which the creature had left for him, to an investigating team from MacDill Air Force Base at Tampa, Florida. After talking to Reeves, the team visited the woods, and said later that they would report to Project Bluebook at Wright-Patterson AFB in Dayton, Ohio. It was stressed that the investigation was routine, of the type made whenever there was a report of an aerial phenomenon.

This article had already been written when we received a letter from Mrs. Lorenzen, in which she kindly gave further details of the Weeki-Wachee case.

The date of Mr. Reeves' encounter was March 2. The flashing instrument was carried at the creature's left side. It seems, furthermore, that the craft stood on four legs, with a round cylinder protruding from underneath. It was through this that the being entered his craft, and "little flaps" pulled up one at a time behind him as he climbed aboard.

We learn too that the gear retracted as the craft was just starting to rise. Markings left by the landing gear were very much in evidence. They were four inches deep and four to five inches across. Other tracked marks looked like figure eights and resembled those in the Zamora case at Socorro.

The "paper" was similar to face tissue, but very strong, and the "writing" bore a slight resemblance to Chinese (that could mean anything) and included many circles and dots.

Postscript

From the February number of *Phénomènes Spatiaux* we learn that Mme. Ackerman has had another letter from Mr. Gooch of Lynchburg. It was dated January 14. Mr. Gooch states that during the last two firings which at that time had been made from the Cape Kennedy site, "flying saucers grouped themselves in formation around the rockets as they flew, and in one case, followed the device through the whole of its trajectory."

Finally, but perhaps most important of all, it is to be noted that a £3,000,000 Atlas-Centaur rocket exploded on its launching pad (see *Daily Telegraph*, and other newspapers of March 5), just as it was about to "lift off" at Cape Kennedy. It had risen barely three feet when the two first-stage Atlas engines stopped, for reasons "yet to be determined".

If there is any truth in Major Donald Keyhoe's report about the UFO "pacing" of the unmanned Gemini capsule, and in the German report that the three Russian cosmonauts were forced down by a UFO, then in the light of this great new Opposition of Mars "flap", and with some concern about the reports of UFO interest in rockets, and about the tremendous accident at Cape Kennedy, we venture the suggestion that our relations with the Unknowns could well be entering a new and crucial phase.

C.B., G.C.

Crash-landed UFO near Mendoza

by Charles Bowen

PETER J. KELLY, the Southampton schoolmaster who has had articles published in recent editions of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, is also on record with some interesting observations on the two great circle orthotenic lines. These were made in a letter which was published in the March/April number of 1964.

As a result of his attempt to determine *experimentally* the paths of the lines (Bayonne–Vichy, and Po di Gnocca–Southend) on a globe, Mr. Kelly confirmed that the lines seemed to be at right angles to one another, that they made an angle of 60° to the equator, and that the Po di Gnocca–Southend line appears to pass over the South Magnetic Pole. He then speculated briefly on the possibility that extraterrestrial visitors have thus fixed these two great circle lines as a basis for their global activities.

South American "UFO Alley"

Mr. Kelly has made a very interesting point. We have seen in the March/April 1965 issue of the REVIEW (*The Most Amazing Case of All, Part* 2) that the extension of the Bayonne–Vichy (BAVIC) line traverses those areas of Southern and Central Brazil, Paraguay, Northern and Western Argentina, and also Chile, where the flying saucer situation has been "on the boil" during the last ten years or so. Magnetic plots for direction finding, or guide lines: the idea appeals. The obvious attractions which the vast South American continent must have for alien visitors was discussed in *South American Trio* (see January/February number of the REVIEW). If by any chance Mr. Kelly has hit on the truth of the matter, small wonder that with such a combination we have a host of incidents and activities on a broad band on either side of the BAVIC extension. This great corridor is nothing more or less than a UFO ALLEY.

A January 1965 confirmation of BAVIC?

Our efforts to reproduce a map of the "busy" parts of South America on a projection likely to show the BAVIC extension as straight as possible (see page 8 of the March/April edition of the REVIEW), also showed that the line, or corridor, passed very near indeed to Mendoza in the Andean foothills in Western Argentina. It was precisely from this place that we received late in January, the first details of a strange new case. We immediately asked Señor Oscar Galíndez, our representative in Argentina, to obtain further details for us. Señor Galíndez worked wonders, and we are particularly indebted to him for obtaining a photograph.

Here then is the story, the first intimation of which came in a newspaper cutting from Señor Galíndez. Gordon Creighton has provided a translation of the extract from *La Crónica* which runs as follows:

> "A mysterious artefact, presumably part of an artificial satellite, has fallen at San Miguel, 4 km. from San Rafael, which lies north of Mendoza, and near to the Provincial frontier with the Province of San Juan.
>
> "The news was brought in by herdsmen from that region, and at first no important details were available as communications between Mendoza and San Rafael have been cut for the past four days."

This alone is cause for wonder. Why were the communications cut? January is the height of summer in the Argentine. The newspaper item continues:

> "San Miguel is a small place with a church, a medical first-aid post, and a school with one teacher. Scattered for miles around are dozens of herdsmen's farms. The region is almost totally arid, and at night it resembles the surface of the Moon.
>
> "The local inhabitants declare that the strange object is a flying saucer, and many of them also declare that they have seen little individuals walking about around the craft in strange uniforms like divers' suits that gave off a green phosphorescence! One thing is quite certain: the people of the district are terrified and nobody ventures out of doors."

Photographs suppressed

When the news of the scare got through to Mendoza, the Provincial Aeronautical Bureau sent an aircraft to investigate the object, which was reported to have landed in a place which was not easily accessible. The newspaper report continues:

> "The aircraft . . . flew over the area and found the object, which was reported to be shaped like a cigar, and estimated to be 8 metres long and 1 metre in diameter. It can be seen from a long way off as it is giving out an intense brilliant white luminosity.
>
> "In the rear part, the capsule has what seems

to be a turbine or something of that kind: it seems to be half buried.

"The aircraft flew over this 'saucer' many times and several black and white photographs were taken, despite the tremendous reflection of sunlight from the dunes and cliff-faces. The pictures were not published in the local press, by special order of the Chief of Police of Mendoza, Commodore José María Ramos. Today a *committee of police* and a government photographer went up to San Rafael to try to clear up the mystery."

After writing to Señor Galíndez, and in between various other REVIEW tasks, there was just time to ponder this business of a *police committee* and the ban on the photographs. Why wasn't a scientific committee sent to the site? Is the curtain of silence beginning to fall in Argentina as well?

Further details

We were delighted when our representative's letter arrived in mid-March, and it contained a photograph—a photo of a photo, so to speak, with no indication as to how it had been obtained. We learn furthermore that the cylinder-like object actually slowed down as it fell towards the ground (*lingering* is the word used by Señor Galíndez) as though arrested by some unseen force.

When the police went to see the object, they contrived to land a DC-3 Dakota aircraft nearby, and removed it by air to the Argentine Air Force H.Q. at Mendoza. From thence it was taken to the Centre for Space Investigations at Córdoba, for detailed study. It should be noted that the Argentine Rocket Research Area is situated near Córdoba. Perhaps this is a contributory reason for the intense UFO activity in the region.

The strange capsule was found to be just over 4 metres long, and 1.30 metres in diameter. Numerous perforations were found along the sides, which Señor Galíndez suggests could have been made from contact with cosmic particles. The outer covering was not that which is usually associated with a rocket, and is made of material which, according to reports, has not yet been identified.

What was the San Miguel object? It seems most unlikely that it was part of an Earth-launched rocket device. As far as we know, most of these burn up on atmospheric re-entry: there have been no reports of heat-shielded manned devices being lost, and if it had been a Russian one, I think we would have heard something about it. Again, there is the matter of the blinding luminosity: could this have been a form of "mayday" beacon—which in turn would explain the disappearance of the beings reported in the first instance. It is hardly likely that crash-landed earthmen, aviators or astronauts, would have disappeared silently into the night if they had found themselves to be within a stone's throw of an inhabited village. Any attempts by earthmen to rescue fellow earthmen from the air, would have been a noisy affair, and would surely have been witnessed: the terror of at least a few of the local people would have been overcome by natural curiosity.

One of several photographs of the San Miguel object, taken from a "Cessna" aircraft of the *Dirección Provincial de Aeronautica,* **Mendoza. Because the copy sent to us is obviously a photocopy of a print, some retouching has been necessary to make it suitable for reproduction.**

This disappearance of the "little individuals", phosphorescent uniforms and all, brings me to another point, and that is the disappearance of part of the "artefact". When the aeroplane returned from the first reconnaisance, complete with photographs, it was reported that the object was 8 metres long, and about 1 metre in diameter. It is the matter of the four missing metres that puzzles me. The airman's estimate must have been good: he was very nearly correct with his estimate of the diameter. But when the capsule was recovered by the police, it was only 4 metres long! Did the missing section depart with the "little individuals"? We can only wait to see if Señor Galíndez can obtain a few more details for us.

Whatever we make of the San Miguel object, the fact remains that there have been more objects from the skies.

For instance, a similar unidentified capsule has fallen 10 km. from San Miguel—a report so far

uncomfirmed, as also is a report of a "fantastic" object which has come to earth in San Luis province, Argentina. Again, on January 30, a strange device 16 inches in diameter, with four wing-like flaps, was seen to come down in a deserted Andean valley near Luján, Mendoza province. When recovered, this object was turned over to the Air Force unit at Mendoza.

There has also been a brisk delivery from "upstairs" of a number of unusual metallic spheres! (Here we would refer our readers to the preceding article about the Virginian "flap", in which a "sort of *fireball*" is reported to have been dropped to the ground; to the "Whitby UFO" reported in World Round-Up, January/February issue of this REVIEW, and to the 1954 object mentioned by Mr. Tim Dinsdale, see Mail Bag on page 26). Is there any connection, we wonder, between this spate of UFOs with detaching and falling star-like objects, and the spheres recovered in South America?

Most noteworthy spheres to have fallen recently in Argentina were on December 25, 1964, and on February 23, 1965. In Buenos Aires, a few weeks ago, Dr. Olavo Fontes said that he had made an analysis of the metal of the sphere which fell on Christmas Day (at Tíu Pujio, Province of Córdoba). He went on: "This object is extraterrestrial! I have never been so excited over an investigation as I am on this occasion. There is no doubt whatsoever in my mind that we are now face-to-face with the most extraordinary fact that anyone could ever have imagined. This spherical object was manufactured outside our planet, inasmuch as **it contains magnesium of a density and purity unknown on Earth.**"

ORTHOTENY—A LOST CAUSE

by Dr. Donald H. Menzel

Director of Harvard College Observatory and Professor of Astrophysics at Harvard University, and one of the best known opponents of flying saucers, the concept of which he attacked in two books, FLYING SAUCERS, **published in 1953, and** THE WORLD OF FLYING SAUCERS, **which appeared in 1963.**

IN a recent issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW (March-April 1964) I presented a straightforward, scientific study of Orthoteny. The analysis clearly demonstrated that Aimé Michel's straight lines are only accidental alignments of randomly dispersed points. I further demonstrated the incorrectness of Michel's statistics. I did not, as Waveney Girvan implied, impugn Michel's good faith or accuse him of deliberately falsifying his figures. The mistakes he has made are those of an honest, but incompetent statistician.

In the same number of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, Michel attempted to reply, be-clouding the issue with a foul fog of sarcasm, and insults, well calculated to deceive the non-mathematical reader into believing that Michel has neatly disposed of me. Waveney Girvan had warned me to expect some "cut and thrust". But it seems to me that Michel transcends the bounds of decency. Having no logical answer to my criticism, he falls back on the well-known technique of wildly attacking my scientific competence. His note scarcely merits a reply, but Girvan urged me to answer lest the readers take silence as a concession that Michel is right.

Michel objects to my calling the narrow strip in which an alignment of sightings occur, a "corridor". He had, in fact, spoken of it as a "rectangle". If we denote by f, the fraction of the total area occupied by the rectangle, Michel gives (*Flying Saucers and the Straight-line Mystery*, page 79) the probability of finding m sightings out of a total of n.

$$P(n, m) = f(n-2)/(m-2),$$

from which he calculates for the now famous BAVIC line, with a 6-point line, 9 observations, and with an assumed f=1/45, that "the odds must be . . . . 26 to 1, that the Bayonne–Vichy alignment is *not* the result of mere chance but of something else." Contrast this figure with Mebane's statement (same book, page 258) that the odds against the accidental occurrence of the 6-point BAVIC line is about 500,000 to 1.

No wonder Michel refers to his own "poor and amateurish method." His formula, quoted above, is meaningless, Mebane's formula is much nearer the truth. Although Michel attacks my derivation as juvenile, based on equations well known to 18-year-old schoolboys, he was certainly not aware of them. This discrepancy, *made in the same book* must certainly raise serious doubts concerning Michel's abilities as a statistician.

Because of growing interest in the statistics of

orthoteny, I have derived formulas more precise than any previously given. I shall, however, defer the more technical development until Part II.

Let me remind the reader that the famous BAVIC alignment occurred on September 24, 1954. Michel stated that six out of nine sightings lay along a line from Bayonne to Vichy. For some reason (he still has not admitted it) Michel excluded the 3 a.m. sighting on September 24, at Vierzon (page 72). He later added a Portugal sighting, reportedly made on the same day, sent to him by Bergier. I questioned this sighting, pointing out that it had clearly been sent to him *because* it lay on the BAVIC line. For this suggestion, Michel, accuses me of "invention". But this controversy has already been fully resolved in my favour. In the very next issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, J. Vallée himself comments concerning this sighting: "this was the famous 'seventh point' on BAVIC, discussed by Dr. Menzel. It is definitely a hoax." From Vallée's wording, the reader would imply that I—and not Michel or Vallée—had been the victim of the hoax.

The final question has to do with another sighting, at Vauriat, on August 19, 1962—8 years later. Vauriat, Michel claims, lies within 200 metres of the "true" BAVIC. He then asks "How many sightings would be needed all over France for chance to allow the possibility of placing *one* sighting in a corridor of 400 metres wide?" He grants me 200, but comments that the laws of chance call "for at least 1,500 sightings. Well, where are these sightings?" This challenge seems to be authoritative and convincing to the non-mathematician, for Waveney Girvan echoed it, "where are they?"

The answer is simple. The probability that at least one random sighting out of n. fall into the corridor, is

$$P=1-(1-f)^n.$$

where f has the same meaning as before.

Our 5-mile or 8-kilometre corridor gave $f=1/80$. Michel wants to reduce this to only 400 metres, a factor of 10. Hence we shall provisionally adopt $f=1/1600$. Michel claims that there would have had to be at least 1500 sightings in order to make $P=1$. Michel is wrong! To get a probability of 1, he would require an infinite number of sightings! However, he does grant me 200 sightings. With $n=200$, $P=1/8$, which means that the chances are only 1 out of 8 that a random sighting will fall this close to the "true" BAVIC line. Certainly events occur every day with much greater odds against them.

A person tossing a coin 40 times will rarely throw exactly 20 heads and 20 tails. However, if I were to tell Michel that I had won a wager of 100 to 1, on a horse named Vauriat, by similar reasoning he would want to know the names of the other 100 horses in the race!

But the problem is by no means as simple as Michel makes it. To claim that Vauriat lies within 200 metres of BAVIC implies that the position of BAVIC is known within a few tens of metres at least. In this respect, Michel states: "This line had been calculated with extreme precision by Jacques Vallée, who based himself on numerous sightings other than those of September 24, 1954." What does "extreme precision" mean? The statistician judges the degree of precision in terms of the mean error or standard deviation, calculated by least squares. But the only least-squares formulas that I have seen, as applied to global orthoteny, are wrong.

And where are those "numerous sightings other than those of September 24, 1954?" Was one of these, by any chance, the now discredited Portuguese hoax? Was Vauriat used, as I strongly suspect? If so, one cannot then marvel at the closeness of Vauriat to the line when the observation was first used to fix the line. This resembles the well-known story of the man who fired the time gun by the clock and the man who set his clock by the time gun.

I suggest that these "numerous" other sightings simply do not exist! For if they did, Michel and Vallée would have shouted them from the treetops. Of course they may represent low-weight records from Brazil, Argentina, etc.

I contend that, even if the BAVIC line were real, its position is not known with the precision assumed by Michel. There are, so far as I can make out, only 6 observations to determine it, of which only 4 are independent. With f as the mean error of a single observation, the mean error in position of a line determined from $n-2$ points is only $\sqrt{n-2}$ times smaller. With $n=6$, and with $f=1/80$ for a single point (Mebane's value) the position of the BAVIC line is uncertain to $f=1/160$, $2-1/2$ miles or 4 kilometres, 4,000 metres instead of 400. Now go back to the probability formula, and use my original conservative figure of 100 sightings rather than Michel's generous 200. The result is $P=1/2$. In brief, with only 100 sightings, the chances are even that one random sighting will fall within the BAVIC corridor. Michel's extravagant claims are based on wrong statistics and a wholly unjustified faith in the accuracy with which BAVIC is known.

I have answered the question: "Where are these 1,500 extra sightings made over 8 years?" The answer is: "I don't need them. With only 100 sightings, the chances are even that one will fall into the BAVIC corridor, determined from the best available statistics!"

Now I have a few specific questions for Michel, which he artfully avoided answering in his reply. Why did you plot the sighting for September 24 on the map for September 23? Why did you claim that the September 24 BAVIC line involved 6 out of 9 sightings, when it should have been 6 out of 10? How do you know that the sightings on September 24, made "about 11 p.m." did not occur until after midnight? Why did you plot two observations on both the maps for October 3 and 4? If you did not make a special search for sightings along the BAVIC line, what did you mean by the statement: "studying very closely the cases of landings reported along this line?" Such searches for special observations along a given line can make the statistics altogether meaningless.

In Part II I shall go more closely into the statistics of alignments and reveal further mistakes made by the orthotenists.

REFLECTIONS OF AN HONEST LIAR

by Aimé Michel

Author of *The Truth about Flying Saucers* **and** *Flying Saucers and the Straight Line Mystery*

PEOPLE say that they have seen certain things. One wants to know whether or not the things in question are located along straight lines. What does one do? One marks the location on a map. But—the location of what? Of the witness? It is not the witness who is significant, but the *thing*. And if the thing has been seen at some distance, and in an uncertain direction? Then one speculates as to the mean distance, or the maximum distance, of the thing that the witness supposes he has seen, and the position marked on the map becomes, instead of a point—a circle. After that, everyone proposes his own method for calculating the matter, and the statistics that seem to him to be the most logical.

Dr. Menzel is very pleased with his, and finds mine deplorable. It is true that I am an amateur statistician—and, incidentally, so is Dr. Menzel. Now, along comes Dr. Avez, who *is* a professional mathematician. And what does he say? If I have fully understood his article, he says this: that Dr. Menzel's method entails no error; but that it does not apply to the problem being studied. This problem was, it seems, more difficult than Dr. Menzel and I had thought. It will be necessary to begin again, right at the start, with Dr. Avez' method or some other equally precise method, *if we want to solve the problem by statistics*. But is statistics the only solution to the problem? That is the question.

Let us start again then at the beginning. People say they have seen certain things. Are these things, or are they not, situated on straight lines? At what point in our reasoning are we going to be forced to appeal to statistics? Clearly it is at the moment when we are obliged to speculate as to the *probable*, or *mean* distance of the object with regard to the witness. If we can eliminate this speculation, that is to say if we can locate the object *exactly*, with a precision superior to the errors of cartography, then we no longer have any statistics. We have only cartography. For example, two points, A. and B., being defined, *on the ground*, with *absolute* precision, and *on the map* with the maximum precision of that map, then the problem of finding out whether a third point, C, defined in the same manner, is or is not on the straight line A–B is resolved by extending this straight line A–B. The map then answers our question. We don't encounter statistics again unless the theoretical cartographical error reaches the magnitude of the phenomenon studied: in which case I think that we shall never know whether we need to menzelise Michel or michelise Menzel, hence this is what we must avoid.

Now, as a matter of fact it happens precisely that the particular case of the BAVIC line (and there are several others in the autumn 1954 wave) meets this requirement. And this is what I am going to show in answering the questions of the worthy Dr. Menzel:

Question: *Why did you plot the sighting for September 24th on the map for September 23rd?*

Answer: The worthy Dr. Menzel wants to make me say that I entered this sighting on the map for September 23rd because it was on a straight line of September 23rd, and not on BAVIC. *It is true.* I stick to my belief that, for the actual investigation of the phenomenon, I was right, for the sighting in question was shortly after midnight. But statistically speaking, *I was wrong*. One point, then, to Dr. Menzel.

Q. *Why did you claim that the September 24th BAVIC line involved 6 out of 9 sightings, when it should have been 6 out of 10?*

A: If you say 6 out of 10, and not 7 out of 11, it is

because you reject the Sierra Gardunha case as a "hoax". What is the objective criterion that permits you to say here that a flying saucer *is* or *is not* "a hoax"? You state what it is in your text—that it is an opinion of Jacques Vallée. Very good. And what objective criterion permits you to determine, among the opinions of Jacques Vallée, which are the ones that you find valid? From reading what you say, I fear I am to understand that only those opinions of Jacques Vallée are valid that rescue your own statistics when these statistics would result in demonstrating the opposite to your preconceived opinions. For what is the probability of 7 sightings out of 11 in *your* corridor? Speak up, we can't hear you very well.

The facts, it seems, do not interest you. But here they are, nevertheless. Having written to his newspaper and described his sighting, the Portuguese witness receives a visit from the Police, who "interrogate" him. He then retracts. He has consequently lied, at one moment or at the other. Is it when he is writing unrestrainedly to his newspaper? Or is it when he receives the benevolent and paternal visit of the Portuguese Police? Vallée thinks the former. As for myself, while refraining carefully from introducing any personal opinions into my reasoning, I nevertheless find that the testimony given by this Portuguese is a fact, and the situation, on the BAVIC line, of the place indicated, is another fact. If your personal statistical methods authorize you to select in advance from among the facts those facts that agree with your prejudices, then I wonder what strange sort of Astrophysics you teach at Harvard.

Q: *How do you know that the sightings on September 24th, made "at about 11 p.m.", did not occur until after midnight?*

A: Dear Dr. Menzel, there is only one man in this world who knows by special revelation, where, when, and how, Flying Saucers occur or do not occur: and that is you. As for myself, I refrain from all personal opinion when in the course of an objective piece of research, and I accept the eyewitness accounts just as I find them. The witnesses say "about 11 p.m." Only a Harvard astrophysicist can be so bold as to take the liberty of supposing that "about 11 p.m." means "after midnight".

Q: *Why did you plot two sightings on both the maps for October 3rd and 4th?*

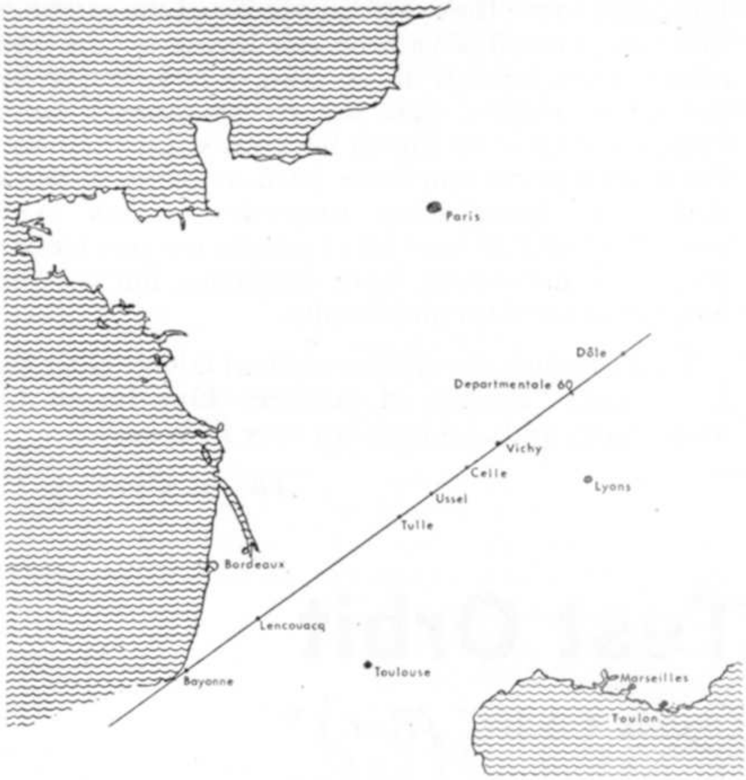
A: For reasons of honesty, if you see what I mean. I did not know whether the Calhanel and Concarneau sightings were of October 3rd or October 4th (note that on my map, No. 8, there are two question-marks). Not being a professor of Astrophysics at Harvard, I did not think myself authorized to give an infallible decision in a doubtful case. Pray be so good as to note that my alignments would have appeared far more beautiful if I had pruned out these two "Virgilian" cases.

Q: *If you did not make a special search for sightings along the BAVIC line, what did you mean by the statement "studying very closely the cases of landings reported along this line"?*

A: Here we have the crux of the matter. Having read in the newspapers that people had seen certain things at Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Ussel, Gelles, and Vichy, we wanted to know whereabouts, *on the ground*, and very precisely, if possible to the nearest metre, these "things" seen by these people were. In certain cases, the local newspapers were just about sufficient in themselves by reason of their exact information: for example at Lencouacq the press said the witness had seen the object sitting on the ground in the field behind the Presbytery. The General Staff Map gave the plan of the village. We wrote to the mayor of Lencouacq, asking him to get the witness to indicate precisely, by means of a cross, the exact position of the field on an enlarged copy of the General Staff Map. Thus the position, on the ground, of the alleged object is known, at Lencouacq, to within a metre, and also its position on the General Staff Map, with a degree of precision that is of the order of that of the Paris Observatory.

At Bayonne, the eyewitnesses spoke of objects in the mid-heaven, above the centre of the town. This was not as good as a sighting on the ground, but the precision was sufficient for us to be able to see, from the extension of the Bayonne–Lencouacq line towards the North-East, to what degree the other places mentioned on that particular day, September 24th, were on the line or not.

First point established: The UFO had passed over the *southern* part of Vichy. We had consequently to find out where the sports ground was, because the witnesses, who were members of the Vichy rugby team, had seen an object fly over their field. Here we met with a set-back, for, on the map of Vichy, *the sports Stadium was to the north of the town.* This discrepancy was first spotted by Jacques Roblin, the technical director of the Arthaud publishing firm, to whom I had given my manuscript and who patiently checked all my maps. By chance it happened that the Arthaud Company's printing presses were in Vichy itself.



In the course of a trip that he was making through the town, Roblin went to the headquarters of the Rugby Club and asked if he could consult the Club's journal. He looked in the journal for the report for 24th September, 1954, **and there he read that, on that particular day, as a complete departure from their usual procedure, the team had played a practice game on the field belonging to the old Pigeon Shooting Club, which is situated precisely in the South-West of the town.** On the 200,000 map the line passed very precisely over the field, without any detectable error. The three points were aligned, without detectable error, on a map on which one millimetre equals 200 metres.

Menzel's argument against BAVIC is based on the assumption that the line has been calculated solely by the methods of mean errors by which, if we designate as E the mean error in a line determined by n single points with a mean error of e, we have

$$E = \frac{e\sqrt{n-2}}{n-2}$$

But, dear Dr. Menzel, the facts are there before the theory. And the facts are simple: even the exact localities are known, and (on BAVIC and on several other lines of the autumn of 1954) as a result the alignments turn out to be all the stricter. If the matter were ascribable to chance, then the contrary should be the case. The line which—on the 200,000 map—links the meadow at Lencouacq with the old Pigeon Shooting ground at Vichy, passes right through the centre of Bayonne and through the mid-heaven of the other places. The only uncertainty relates to Ussel, where we have not been able to meet the witnesses so as to find out where the tree was that had the leaves of its upper branches dried and curled by the UFO. But on the other hand we shall see, in the following paragraph, that other sightings which it *was* possible to pin-point on the ground, all fall without detectable error on the BAVIC line on the 200,000 map. After that, Doctor Menzel is welcome to make his statistics prove whatever he wants to prove and to call for a 4,000 metre corridor. Where is this corridor? Speak up, please!

Q: *Where are those "numerous sightings other than those of September 24th 1954"? . . . . "I suggest that these "numerous" other sightings simply do not exist."*

A: This suggestion acquires its full flavour when it is set beside the concluding sentence of your first paragraph, my dear and most courteous Dr. Menzel. ("The mistakes he has made are those of an honest, but incompetent, statistician")—So one can be a liar, but nevertheless honest? Well, I leave to you the responsibility for that opinion. And, as regards these sightings which "do not exist", please be so good as to get the 200,000 map of France and trace on it the line defined by Lencouacq, the old Pigeon Shooting Ground at Vichy, the mid-heaven at the centre of Bayonne, etc., and then extend that line towards the North-East. Then you will see that, *inter alia*, it passes right over:

(*a*) In the Department of Saône-et-Loire, the the departmental highway No. 60, *between Saint Roman - sous - Gourdon and Brosses-Thillot*. Then, please, be so good as to refer to page 175 of my book. There you will be gratified to find the account of a landing on that very road, and the stopping of a motor cycle engine. The line crosses the road at that precise point. The degree of error is undetectable on the 200,000 map, just as it is at Vichy, and Lencouacq, etcetera.

(*b*) In the Department of Jura, to the south of the town of Dôle. Turn to pages 27 and 187 of my book, where you will find two sightings made at that place.

If I am not mistaken, that makes eight sightings aligned, without detectable error, on the 200,000 map. We have one sighting at

each of: Bayonne, Lencouacq, Tulle, Gelles, Vichy, Departmental Highway No. 60; and two in the southern part of Dôle. I am being generous, so I am leaving out Ussel, because that case was not checked. *And I am not quoting here any sighting not given in my book* (but there are however such cases, and "plenty of them", and they are reported in texts written down before the BAVIC line had been discovered, and they include some landings). Where is this absurd 4,000 metre corridor of yours? And what conclusion is reached by *your* statistics on the basis of such facts as these?

It now remains for me to say a word or two about "sarcasms" and "insults". My dear Uncle Donald, I am glad to see that you disapprove of the methods that you yourself have been employing for the past fifteen years against those who, not knowing by private revelation that the flying saucers don't exist, are simply trying to find out what they are. For fifteen years you have been at pains to show that we are ignoramuses, imbeciles, or liars. And behold, what a strange lot of people we are: we are not only ignoramuses, liars, imbeciles, but we also indulge in sarcasm and insults.

That reminds me of this excellent advice given by a moralist: "Beware of murder. One begins by murdering, and one ends up very ill-bred."

TRANSLATION: G.C.

A Gemini Test Orbit

by Major Donald E. Keyhoe USMC (Ret.) *

This item is taken from the opening paragraphs of an article entitled U.S. Air Force Censorship of the UFO Sightings, **which appeared in the January, 1965, number of** TRUE, **The Man's Magazine, by courtesy of the Editor.** Copyright, 1965 Fawcett Publications, Inc.

I'M GOING to tell you an eerie story, labelled a "rumour" by the Air Force, which you haven't heard before. The fact that you haven't heard it—haven't been **allowed** to hear it—is as frightening as the story itself.

On April 8, 1964, the National Aeronautics & Space Administration launched from Cape Kennedy the first two-man Gemini capsule, a crucial step in our effort to land an astronaut on the moon. The capsule went into its planned orbit around the earth, and sensitive instruments began gathering data that would reveal flaws and point out possible improvements in the design. This first test flight was a great success. You read about it next morning in your paper.

But there was something you didn't read. This report was given to me confidentially by two scientists present at the test. The Gemini capsule was still in its first orbit when **four spacecraft of unknown origin flew up to it.** While startled radar trackers watched their screens in open-mouthed amazement, the four took up positions around the capsule—two above it, one beneath, one aft. Whoever was inside those strange craft appeared to be inspecting the capsule minutely and with care. They drew close to the capsule and paced it for a full orbit of the earth. Then, apparently finished with their scrutiny, they pulled away and vanished into the unknown.

What were these four mysterious space travellers? Where had they come from? What mission had brought them into the earth's space neighbourhood? What people, what beings, were at the controls? I fervently wish I could answer those questions. And I wish I could satisfactorily answer one other: this eerie episode, this incident so fraught with implications for all who live on earth—why was it kept secret?

This much I know: the Gemini episode was not an isolated case. For in the past three years, unknown to the general public, there has been a tremendous new wave of incidents in which unidentified flying objects (UFOs) have been sighted around the world, often near rocket test ranges, satellite orbital pathways and airfields. The U.S. Government has been aware throughout that time that enigmatic alien craft of some kind are watching our outer-space operations. The new wave of UFO appearances fully matches in magnitude the great "flying saucer" scare of the late 1940's and early 1950's, when it wasn't unusual for dozens of UFO sightings to be reported in a single week. UFO activity slowed down somewhat in the late 1950's. But now, suddenly, the UFOs are back—their numbers greater, their origin as obscure, their purpose as unfathomable as ever before.

You haven't heard or read anything about this

great new wave. No. Back in the early 1950's the Air Force, charged with investigating UFOs, adopted the posture of "debunking" flying saucer stories and ridiculing anybody who claimed to have seen an alien craft. Now the tactic has changed. The tactic is total suppression of news. By a strict Air Force order, entitled AFR 200-2, Air Force personnel are forbidden to talk in public about UFO sightings, and information about UFOs is to be withheld from the press unless the thing seen "has been positively identified as a familiar or known object." The U.S. Government can also exert indirect pressure on employees of companies working in missile projects, on airline pilots and on others subject to some measure of government control. Result: a news blackout.

Why the blackout? I can only guess. Perhaps the government knows something so startling that it fears the public would be panicked. Perhaps the Air Force is afraid that the public, fed too many UFO stories, might come to believe UFOs are unbeatable new Russian war weapons. Maybe the Air Force now regrets a long-ago decision to hide the true nature of UFOs, but fears that to admit the long cover-up would bring on a storm of public anger.

I don't know what the Air Force's motives are. But I do know—I know beyond any possibility of doubt—that a great new wave of UFOs has arrived to patrol our skies and our space neighbourhood. I don't know any more about these inexplicable craft than anybody else. I know only that they are under intelligent control and appear to have been produced by some technology more advanced than our own. They are not optical illusions, hallucinations, mirages, kites, birds or balloons. They are real. Whether the Air Force admits it or not, they are definitely, patently, inescapably here.

*Director of NICAP (National Investigations Committee on Aerial Phenomena) of 1536 Connecticut Avenue, N.W., Washington 6, D.C., U.S.A., publishers of "The UFO Investigator", and the widely publicised documentary "The UFO Evidence", price $5.00.

Astronauts forced down by UFOs?

by Gordon Creighton

WHEN the large Soviet space-craft VOSKHOD I with its trio of cosmonauts thudded back to Earth in Central Asia on October 12, 1964, after only 16 orbits and only 24 hours aloft, there was a good deal of speculation in the press as to the reason, for Soviet officials had been saying that this would be a "prolonged flight".

Searching for possible clues, Peter Fairley (*Evening Standard*, October 13) suggested that there might have been a defect in the craft's radio transmitter and also that, as the machine was moving in a pronounced egg-shaped orbit, it might have been dropping at times dangerously close to the outer fringes of the atmosphere, where "drag" would at once produce friction and intense heat. And indeed, so Peter Fairley went on to say, Soviet officials had stated that during the night the temperature in the cabin had risen 8 degrees.

Next day, various papers carried reports from Moscow (for example the *Daily Telegraph*, October 14) in which the three astronauts were quoted as having said they greatly regretted being brought down so soon, for they **"had seen many interesting things, and wanted to investigate them more fully".**

This peculiar statement must have been pondered by many readers, who would wonder what exactly the astronauts could be expected to have seen—other than Sun, Moon, Earth, and Stars, all of which must by now be familiar sights to astronauts.

But students of the UFO problem will have found the statement highly significant, for do they not recall that several cats have popped out of the proverbial bag in the course of the last few years?

For example (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July/August, 1962) the American X-15 pilot Joe Walker said, when lecturing at a conference in Washington on May 11 of that year, that he had just photographed some UFOs while he was in flight, and for the *second time* too. He explained that his camera had caught five or six cylindrical or discoidal objects. "I don't feel like speculating about them," he said.

But two days later *Le Matin* (Paris) carried the significant statement that Joe Walker had "admitted that it was one of his appointed tasks to detect these unidentified flying objects."

Shortly afterwards (see FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, September/October, 1962) a second X-15 pilot, Major Robert White, admitted that on July 17, 1962, at a height of 58 miles, he too had seen a "strange object" some thirty or forty feet from his machine. According to *Time* Magazine (July 27) he had shouted dramatically over his voice-radio during the flight: **"There are things out there. There absolutely are!"**

While passing over Australia during his 15th orbit, on May 15, 1963, American Astronaut Cooper radioed to Cape Canaveral (as Cape Kennedy was then called) that he had just seen a green and red UFO streaking along in the opposite

direction to himself. I heard it on the wireless myself, and so did thousands in England, but after Cooper had landed his lips were evidently quickly sealed, for there was nothing about it in the press next morning and we have never heard a word about it to this day.

The preceeding details have been recapitulated by way of introduction to the next most extraordinary clue in this mystery.

In its issue for January 1965, the German review *Die Andere Welt* (published in Freiburg-im-Breisgau) carried an astonishing story, contributed to them by Herr S. R. Oilinger of Jadapress/Deutscher Pressedienst, of Kiel-Ellerbek. This story is so remarkable that I give below a complete translation. The article appeared under the headline—**"What can it have been that they saw up there?"** and continued: "The premature landing of the Soviet space-craft with its three-man crew appears suddenly in a new light. **The books written by the American Marine Corps officer, Major Donald E. Keyhoe, in the 1950s and not taken seriously at the time by scientists, have now been described by the Soviet Academy of Science as interesting material for study'.**

"Keyhoe's book *Space is Coming Nearer*, published in 1954 [the German version of *Flying Saucers from Outer Space*—Editor] is now stated by the Soviets to be useful 'for comparative study' in connection with the latest flight of the Soviet three-man spaceship. Presumably, what are to be compared are, on the one hand, Major Keyhoe's collected eye-witness accounts of sightings of flying saucers by Air Force pilots and the details released at that time by the Air Technical Intelligence Centre of the U.S. Air Force and, on the other hand, certain 'phenomena' reported by the crew of the prematurely grounded Soviet space-craft. Precisely what this Soviet statement refers to, has not been revealed. But in the meantime, what is striking is this sudden interest in the books of Donald Keyhoe, which the public throughout the world was excitedly reading ten and twelve years ago.

"In the preface to his book, Major Keyhoe said, at that time: 'It is my hope that this book will help to prepare everyone, whether sceptics or believers, for the final act of the saucer drama—an act that will have an impact on the lives of all of us.'

"In Moscow there are, in fact, persistent rumours that the last manned satellite was repeatedly overtaken by extremely fast flying discs which struck the craft violent shattering blows with their powerful magnetic fields . . ." [*This, of course, refers to the* 3-*man satellite of October*, 1964—Editor.]

"Whatever one may think of the reports given by Keyhoe, it is, to say the very least, remarkable that today, after the premature landing of a three-man capsule shot into orbit around the Earth, there should be this recrudescence of interest in material published by him in the 1950s. Can it indeed be that there truly are things up there, 'twixt Heaven and Earth, of which Mankind could never have dreamed. And will there perhaps occur, one of these days, that 'final act in the saucer drama' of which Keyhoe speaks?

"The fact remains that, in a letter issued on January 26, 1953 by the American Department of Defence, the following words appear:

'The Air Force and its investigative agency, Project Bluebook, are aware of Major Keyhoe's conclusion that the flying saucers are from another planet. The Air Force has never denied that this possibility exists. . . . If the apparently controlled manoeuvres . . . are correct, then the only remain-explanation is the interplanetary answer.'

(Signed) Albert M. Chop,
Air Force Press Desk."

So much so, then, for this startling German article. I am at present making efforts to get the original Russian sources from which Herr Oilinger derived it, and may therefore be able to say something about this later.

Let us now consider one or two other notable points.

Following upon VOSKHOD I, the Soviets put up VOSKHOD II, from which Lt.Col. Alexei Leonov made history on March 18 of this year when he stepped out into space. Now the details of this flight are also deserving of very careful study. Leonov and Belyayev did 18 orbits, and were aloft for 26½ hours. When they came down, it seems that for several hours their contact with the Soviet control-stations was broken, and when they were finally found, they were discovered in deep snow at Perm, 873 miles north-west of the area in Kazakhstan where they had been scheduled to make their land-fall. It was clear that something had gone wrong, and on Sunday, March 21, our papers were telling us that the space-ship had come down enveloped in flames, its outside radio antennae had been burnt off and, in fact, they had had a narrower escape from death than any of the other cosmonauts whose story has yet been told to the world.

On March 27 (see *Daily Telegraph* and other papers) it was announced from Moscow that the two astronauts had held a press-conference, at which they said that a failure in their solar orientation system had obliged them to make an extra orbit and overshoot their prescribed landing area. I quote from John Miller's despatch to the *Daily Telegraph*: "Speaking at a three-hour Moscow

press-conference, *the astronauts picked their words carefully, and avoided a few questions. Probably the most significant evasion dealt with their report that they had sighted an unmanned satellite half a mile from the Voskhod II.* They gave the time when they spotted it as 5.12 a.m., Moscow time, on Friday, March 19, only a few orbits before landing, but said they 'were not able to identify it' " The same report went on to say that there was speculation in Moscow that the 'unmanned mystery satellite' (note the careful insistence that it was *unmanned*), might have been an American machine, launched to track and photograph VOSKHOD II.

Well, it could be. But there remains a considerable element of doubt on that particular score, for I do not see how the Americans can have prepared such a careful plan (involving immense problems) when everything about the launching and intended orbit of VOSKHOD II was being kept secret.

It sounds far more as though this were another UFO. *And the big question is, did they come down in a hurry to get away from it, or did it "assist" them to come down and, by driving them out of orbit down on to the edge of the Earth's atmosphere, give them both a very narrow escape from death?*

Is the "moment of truth", at which Keyhoe hinted, close at hand, when Earth Man will learn whether or not "they" intend to let him escape from the confines of this planet? VOSKHOD II penetrated to a height of 300 miles, which so far as I know, is further than any Earth Man had been before.

It may be noted in this connection that we are at present in the middle of a major "flap", and that the 26-monthly cycle brought Mars into opposition with us on March 8.

Finally, mention must also be made of a number of happenings in the USA. From the GEPA Bulletin (Paris) for February 1965 we learn that, according to a private report received from Mr. Richard Gooch of Lynchburg, Virginia, there has been much UFO activity around Cape Kennedy of late. During two firings that took place in the first half of January, he reported that **saucers had "grouped themselves around the rockets as they flew, and in one case they followed the rocket for the whole of its trajectory".** This intense interest in our rocketry is nothing new, for as early as 1949 we know, from the published report of Commander Robert B. McLaughlin of the U.S. Navy, that he and many others had seen discs pacing the American rockets above the White Sands guided missile base, and we know that all the American rocket bases and ranges have been under intensive surveillance ever since. ("Security" cannot have been very tight in those days, otherwise Commander McLaughlin's report would never have been published; it certainly never would be published now).

It seems to me that if we examine closely all these details that I have gathered together above, it adds up to some sort of pattern. As early as 1957 and 1958 there were reports that the Americans were running into some strange difficulties with their rockets, and no doubt the Russians were too. One of the American rockets which did not behave as it should was the JUNO II, and there were reports that it went seriously off course, indeed that it was "*deflected*". Speaking of this *deflection* of JUNO II, Dr. Wernher von Braun was reported in two papers that I have seen (the West German *Neues Europa* of January 1, 1959, and *El Dia* of Montevideo, May 11, 1964) to have made the following clear statement:—

"We find ourselves faced by powers which are far stronger than we had hitherto assumed, and whose base of operations is at present unknown to us. More I cannot say at present. We are now engaged in entering into closer contact with these powers, and in six or nine months time it may be possible to speak with more precision on the matter".

Needless to say, there does not seem to have been any further statement from Dr. von Braun.

In fairness to him, I should state that I do possess a letter from Dr. von Braun's secretary, written to me in 1964, in which he states that he is authorised to assure me that **Dr. von Braun does not believe in UFOs and never made that statement.**

But I regret to say that I am unconvinced. Security has grown far tighter of late, and many a statement made in the early 1950s, or even as late as 1957 or 1958, would never be made now.

Frank Scully summed it all up for us in his book *Behind the Flying Saucers*, when he says that "men who talked freely in the summer of 1949 wouldn't tell their story for $20,000,000 by the summer of 1950". The buttoning up of mouths has proceeded steadily since then and Scully's words can equally well be applied to Werner von Braun who was evidently willing to talk in 1959 but no longer willing to talk in 1964.

POSTSCRIPT: And now what about the follow-item, culled from the *Manchester Guardian* of November 12, 1964:

"HONOLULU, November 11. Two American scientists are on their way to the Solomon Islands, in the S.W. Pacific, to try to trace the 'mysterious forces' causing United States earth satellites to veer temporarily out of orbit when passing over that area.

"Dr. George Woollard, a Honolulu geophysicist, said yesterday that the same problem had been

encountered at other places. It seemed that in all cases excess gravity was pulling the orbiting satellites earthward.

"Deflections in the satellites' oribiting patterns had been registered by electronic tracking systems, he said. But it was not known yet how much they deviated from course. REUTER."

The Ark of the Israelites was an Electrical Machine

By Dr. Bernard Finch M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Ch., F.B.I.S.

THE mysterious Ark of the Covenant which for centuries played a most important role in the religious practices of the Israelites is always associated with mystery. It was unapproachable and on occasions gave forth bolts of fire.

When we examine the construction of the ark in terms of modern physics we are lead to the conclusion that what we are describing is an electric storage machine resembling the Leyden jar of today.

The ark was an oblong chest made of acacia wood, which was very dry timber. It was lined on the inside and outside with thin sheets of gold leaf, and it behaved as a layer of insulating material between two conductors. The ark was fitted with rings, one at each end of the four corners, and through these rings were passed staves of the same wood overlaid with gold leaf: these staves acted as conductors. The hollow ark was said to contain the *Rod of Aaron* which was really an insulated stick overlaid with gold leaf and with a spherical conductor at the extremity. The ark was hidden away in the most secluded part of the temple or tabernacle, and was covered and hidden by skins of animals which acted as an insulator. The details of the construction of the west end of the tabernacle is most interesting. Here rested the ark in all its mystery.

The walls were made of boards of dry acacia wood lined by gold leaf, and the whole room resembled an insulated box. Against the walls rested vertical rods of wood covered with gold. These rods were fixed firmly in the ground by means of silver sockets which acted as insulators. They were connected together by means of rings at the top joined by a metallic chain. This chain crossed the floor and joined the rings attached to the corners of the ark.

Apparently the High priest was able to charge the ark to a high voltage of electrostatic energy. The ark, being insulated held the charge. If an unconsecrated person entered the tabernacle (an enemy of the high priest), the ark was discharged and the visitor was struck down with bolts of fire. Thus the sons of Aaron, when they sought to bring a sacrifice, were destroyed by fire that leaped from the ark. The priests obtained their electricity either from the clouds (atmospheric electricity), or from a friction machine (Wimshurst machine).

The early Israelites had a knowledge of atmospheric electricity as shown by the fact that the temple at Jerusalem was protected by lightning conductors in the shape of long thin metal rods rising vertically into the air from its roof. The same was true of certain ancient Egyptian temples. In any case the temple was never damaged by lightning through the thousand years of its existence in a land where thunderstorms were frequent.

The receptacle of the ark in the temple of Solomon was called *The Holy of holies* and this too was an insulated room. The knowledge of electricity was handed to the Israelites from a higher being through Moses, who handed down the secrets to the high priests. There are many accounts in the Bible of the association of Moses, the high priests, and others with lightning bolts, balls of fire, and luminous clouds in the sky and the evidence is strong that they were in communication with space beings who instructed them in the elementary laws of electrostatics.

In later years, this knowledge appears to have departed the Israelites, for the ark was but a symbol of what had gone before; they were unable to charge it up so that it could perform its magic with the fire bolts. The Israelites were turning to idol worship, and, witness the final debacle when the high priests were slaughtered and the Romans desecrated the temple.

There were special ceremonies attached to the ark, all of which were to enable the high priests to maintain dry air in the tabernacle, and thus allow the ark to hold its high energy charge. Thus Moses commanded Aaron to keep a fire at the altar which was to be kept burning continuously. "It's God's holy fire," said Moses, "It is a duty of your sons to see that it is kept burning every minute of every day" (Leviticus 6 :13). Later Moses says: "God is pleased with the offerings you have made".

PROMOTION BONUS

MAYBE it would be entering into the realms of fantasy to ask those of our readers who are in a position so to do, to introduce us, to eccentric aunts or uncles of theirs who have a few pounds to spare for a good cause.

Nevertheless, the fact remains that we really do need a substantial increase in the number of subscribers to make sure that the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW continues for any length of time without a price increase. Please do not read into this that an increase of price is imminent. It is not, but we must look ahead. This is an age of soaring costs. It must be realised, for example, that this is the last issue to go out at the present rate of postage. There is no knowing what awaits us in the near future.

The best, and in fact the only real way of guarding against a price increase, is to increase our circulation. Warning notes have been sounded in the two previous issues, and we repeat in this number too that **if every subscriber persuaded just one friend or acquaintance to take the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, we would have no worries at all.** Indeed, our future would be much rosier than it is already.

It *can* be done. Two friends in our immediate circle have each introduced *five* new names to our list during the last three months. So please see if you can emulate them. Remember, one new name would be fine, two would be excellent, three or four would be wonderful! **five,** we feel, would be well worth a prize, and this is how we propose to do something about it:

If, by April 30th, 1966, any of our subscribers introduce five new members, sending us their names, addresses, and the usual remittances, his or her index card in our office will be marked accordingly. When that subscriber's next subscription falls due, he or she will receive the next six issues free of charge.

A bonus, in effect, for promoting the well-being of our journal, and for helping to spread the truth about the UFO or flying saucer situation.

This offer is open as from May 1st, 1965.

This number consists of 36 pages, which is four more than usual. You will agree that it is packed with interesting and stimulating material. Show it to your friends and earn yourselves a bonus. The offer is also open to any new readers introduced under the scheme: they too can do their bit!

And by the way, no harm will be done if you *do* whisper in the ear of your favourite eccentric aunt, or uncle, or grandparent.

Suddenly a hissing bolt of fire shot out of the tabernacle, arched upward to be plainly seen above the curtains and struck directly on the altar.

In Leviticus 10: 1–2, Aaron's two sons are struck down: "hissing blade sof fire" shot out of the inner room and plunged like daggers into the two men. They fell lifeless on the sandy floor under the curtains of the tabernacle entrance. Moses warned Aaron not to touch the bodies of his two sons for they had been electrocuted and were still highly charged.

There is a final piece of evidence which points to the existence of alien contact in early times. The tomb of Darius erected five centuries after the building of Solomon's temple is a copy of the tabernacle and shows an altar on top of the chamber, on the side of which is a winged sun god resembling a man riding on a flying saucer.

It appears therefore that the Jewish high priests had obtained the secret of the electrostatic machine from aliens. They were able to use it as a method of terrorising the people and diverting their worship from idols to higher ideals and philosophies. The power of the ark was second to none against all comers, hence the name of the god of Israel—YAHU: "to destroy".

Two New Contact Claims

By Jerome Clark

Our contributor, who hails from Minnesota, is studying Political Science at South Dakota State University.

FROM 1958 through 1963, the United States was left almost bereft of UFOs. There were a number of isolated sightings, but these were seldom spectacular in nature, and rarely did the craft appear *en masse* over a particular area. This spate of inactivity inspired speculation in the American mass media, which apparently were quite unaware of the incredible events transpiring at the time in Europe, South America, and the Soviet Union, that flying saucers were a fad that was just about dead, and good riddance.

However, after Socorro and its sequels—lasting even up to the time of writing (March 1965)—no one asks why the saucers are no longer seen; the the question seems to be, instead, why they are back. Of course, the very obvious answer—that unknown spacecraft are once again conducting intensive reconnaissance of the terrain of North America—is much too simple for the professional scoffers who dominate the American Press. As a result, it appears that any explanation, however preposterous, is preferable to the truth. Perhaps the most ridiculous thus far advanced to account for the return of the UFOs was suggested by a writer for *The National Observer*, who theorized that mass hysteria resulting from Cold War tension was causing people to imagine spaceborne "saviours" in the form of flying saucers. In view of the fact that all during the period of the 1964–65 "flap", the United States was experiencing unusually good relations with the Soviet bloc, one wonders what "tension" the author had in mind. Certainly not Viet Nam, about which, according to the Gallup Poll, most Americans are extremely apathetic.

Whether the incidents we are about to relate will serve as a climax to the current American wave remains to be seen. Definitely, at any rate, it is odd that two cases as sensational as these should have occurred in such rapid succession. Is it possible that they presage even more astonishing events in the near future?

Case 1: A Photograph in Virginia

On the evening of January 26 this year, Steven Houffer, 16, and six friends were driving near Brands Flats on U.S. Highway 250, when they saw "what looked like a man walking" toward the road from a field. They thought nothing of it until the "man" sat down and began peering intently at passing cars.

It suddenly occurred to Houffer that the stranger might be from one of the UFOs which had regularly been reported in the area during the last few weeks, and, with this in mind, he stopped the car and stepped out. When he and his friends approached the being, though, it ran up the hill and quickly vanished over the other side. Two similar "men" also appeared, fleeing in the same direction. "They left us 'way behind,'" Houffer explained to police, to whom he reported the experience shortly afterward.

The creatures, he said, wore one-piece, skin-tight, silvery garments. They were about 3½ feet tall, and—in a peculiar sidelight—did not leave any footprints in the muddy field across which they were alleged to have dashed.

The police, of course, were sceptical, but still interested enough to send 16 reserve officers to the area, along with photographer Charles Weaver. The search failed to produce any evidence for the claim, and everyone left except Houffer and Weaver, who stayed to look around further.

Shortly thereafter, the two sighted what they described as a "glowing aluminum barn" which they went down to investigate. Weaver was walking inside when suddenly something struck him on the head. "The whole left side of his face was blood red and his eyes had a peculiar red glow," according to Houffer. The two turned to run, but Weaver stopped briefly and flashed a picture. In the light thrown off by the exploding flashbulb, a little man standing by the "barn" was visible.

Contacted by two local newspapers, Augusta County Sheriff John E. Kent and Staunton Police Chief R. Ruff Cline expressed the opinion that the story was a hoax. Mrs. Houffer, however, insisted that her son was "a hard-working boy," unlikely to manufacture such a tale. The night of the purported experience, she stated, her son had awakened her, and "he was white as a sheet."

As for the photograph, the woman reported that the camera contained colour film and would be

taken to nearby Roanoke on the 29th for Development.[1]

It was not.

On the day of the intended trip, several newspapers carried the following item: "While the situation commands a certain degree of humorous respect today, someone apparently is taking it seriously. The youth who believes he 'captured' a small creature on colour film Tuesday night in the Brands Flat area could not be reached for comment late this morning. A fellow employee at the service station where Charles Weaver works said a government vehicle came by earlier and the local amateur photographer went off with the car's occupants, apparently to Washington."[2]

Predictably, no further information has been forthcoming. Quite probably, unless the United States government changes its policy toward the UFO problem, we shall never have the opportunity to view the photograph in question, which might very well prove, once and for all, the reality of the flying saucer—presumably something American officialdom does not want to happen.

Case 2: A Visit in California

On January 30, about 2 a.m., a 45-year-old television repairman named Sid Padrick was taking his customary walk along Manresa Beach near Watsonville, approximately 1,500 feet from the house in which his wife and three sons lay sleeping. Hearing a "humming" sound, he looked up to see some kind of flying machine which, for reasons to be explained shortly, he did not describe in any detail. A voice assured him that the occupants were friendly, and, after the craft landed, the commander—an individual called "Mr. Ziena," as near as Padrick could spell the name—invited him aboard. He entered through a large square door.

The nine beings inside the UFO were normal in appearance, wearing bluish-white suits—"the colour was almost that of the light inside the ship, which was indirect and seemed to come from the walls," according to the witness. The men sported short, dark hair that appeared never to have been cut—"as though that was its normal length."

"Ziena spoke English," Padrick said, "He told me they could speak any language among them, but he was the only one who could speak mine. They seemed to communicate between themselves with hand-gestures and perhaps facial gestures. He told me where they were from in terms I did not understand. I don't know much about space. I wouldn't be sure their world is in the solar system. He said they had been here before, but not how many times, or when their most recent visit was. He did say they would come again."

Padrick conversed with Ziena for some two hours, interrupted only by a ten-minute walk Padrick took alone outside the UFO.[3] The machine's motive power, he was informed, came from "energy transferred through a light source known to them," though "I didn't know what he was talking about." Apparently the witness learned little about the craft's occupants and their purpose. In fact, he reported that he "asked if any other person, with more scientific or technical background, could have gained more knowledge. The answer was 'absolutely no'," which would indicate that the occupants were not interested in revealing much about themselves. Although Ziena insisted the trip had been for "exploratory reasons only," Padrick expressed sceptism, saying, "I think it was more than that, truthfully. There was a religious facet which I was unable to decipher."

Even his description of the UFO was limited. About the interior, he noted that there were fourteen rooms, but he would not elaborate further. At one point, Ziena showed him "a diffuse glass-like plate" on which appeared the image of a "navigation craft" somewhere high above them.

Beyond stating that the saucer he boarded was about 50 feet long and 30 feet high, he refused to detail the structure of either of the machines with which he came in contact. "The Air Force asked me not to discuss it in detail," he claimed. He said that an account of his experiences had been given to Major D. B. Reeder at Hamilton Air Force Base, and that Reeder had passed it on to the UFO Center at Dayton, Ohio.

One newspaper, in recounting Padrick's purported encounter, commented, perhaps significantly, "Two other reports of sightings of unidentified flying objects were made in the Watsonville area about the same time. A crew of Santa Clara County park rangers reported 'a disc-like thing' over the Hecker Mountains east of Watsonville on December 28, and *Monterey Mayor George M. Clemins said he saw a bright object over Monterey Bay on the evening of January* 29."[4]

What are we to make of stories like the above? The non-UFOlogist—and even, unfortunately, some UFOlogists—wax sceptical on the mere grounds that both claims are fantastic. This is no argument at all, for the very idea of the flying saucer is close to being incredible in itself. Moreover, we simply do not know enough about the UFO mystery to dismiss a reported incident because it contains details which to us sound improbable; the fact is that alleged saucer encounters can usually be rejected only by the presence of adverse *external* factors—for example, the witness' known unreliability. We cannot do as one well-known UFO researcher has done: ignore

reports of humanoid ufonauts, regardless of evidence, because we deem it more probable that the saucer intelligences are "amorphous blobs."[5]

Regrettably, as yet our data on the Houffer-Weaver and Padrick cases are incomplete. Nonetheless, initial examination definitely gives us a rather favourable impression of both.

To start with, one questions whether the American Government would go to the trouble of silencing hoaxers, particularly considering that, if they are liars, Houffer, *et al.*, would serve the Air Force line better by being allowed to publicize their reports and coincidentally drawing ridicule to the rest of the UFO subject.

But it is perhaps more significant that these present "contactees" have included details in their accounts that have appeared before in other occupant reports. In the absence of more direct evidence (in the first case there *was* direct evidence —the photograph—but for our purposes we shall have to forget it), this is the only remaining method of substantiation.

Case No. 1. "Little men," of course, are nothing new to UFO students. Their running abilities have been attested to in at least one other instance.[6]

Of particular interest, though, is the reference to the beings' attire: one-piece, skin-tight suits apparently made of a kind of light metal. Readers of this REVIEW will recall similar clothing allegedly worn by the visitors which "Adhemar", Gary Wilcox, Herr Linke, and others have described. It is also significant that, according to contributor J. Vyner, the strange being known as Springheel Jack dressed in "close-fitting garments of some glittering material like oilskin or metal mesh."[7]

Case No. 2. Human-like ufonauts have figured in a number of presumably reliable landing reports, although usually (but not always) witnesses have claimed that the beings had *blond*, rather than black, hair.[8]

But one minor statment in Padrick's story should strike a responsive chord in the minds of REVIEW readers: "the light inside the ship," he says, ". . . was indirect and seemed to come from the walls."

In two separate ufonaut encounters recorded in the January/February 1965 issue,[9] we are told that the "contactees" were puzzled by the origins of the light illuminating the interior of their respective UFOs—almost as if, indeed, "the light came from the walls."

If either story is true, our guess is that it is the first one discussed above. The evidence for it—what little there is—is more convincing than the rather circumstantial data surrounding Padrick's claim.

Perhaps, however, ours is personal preference, for UFOlogists are more comfortable around "little men" than benevolent space people. Yet I think that it would be a mistake to confuse Sid Padrick with the professional claimants as typified by George Adamski. There is little in his story that smacks of the arrogance of those businessmen who profit by spreading The Message of the Brothers. He even at one point admits being "frightened—very much so—all the time," and adds, "I didn't know what [Ziena] was talking about."

One can find no inspirational value in his claim; quite to the contrary, one senses a faintly ominous tone to the whole affair. When Ziena says he and his crew came for "exploratory reasons only," Padrick is sceptical—"I think it was more than that." Ziena acts strangely evasive, as though preferring to allow as little as possible to be known concerning his mission. No comfort for the cultist here![10]

Curiously, what may prove, in retrospect, to have been the greatest contribution of the Padrick report may not be the story itself, of whose authenticity we can never be certain. Although quite at a loss to explain what we have reprinted below, we quote the following without comment, letting the reader draw his own conclusions. The italics are ours, but the words are those of Sid Padrick, as told to UFOlogist Lucius Farish:

"I was severely warned before a release of this info (*sic*) to the newspapers that I would become a subject of extreme persecution, ridicule, harrassment (*sic*) and vandalism by all people who have known me in the past. *However, I wish to make it known that something completely different has taken place. I have had none of this; every person who has contacted me up to now who knows me personally has called with very high praise and congratulation. All letters I have received have been from highly-respected people throughout the country. I have received hundreds of telephone calls from over the country from very notable ministers, scientists, teachers, and college professors.*"

Beside this, even "Mr. Ziena" and his crew are forgotten.

Notes

[1]The Roanoke, Virginia, *Times* and the Waynesboro *News-Virginian*, January 28.

[2]The Richmond *Times-Despatch* and the Staunton *Leader*, January 29.

[3]Our news source is rather vague on the question of why Padrick left the ship. We infer that the machine flew a short distance to the top of a hill a few miles from the witness' home, although this is only implied. However, the statement that Ziena "allowed [Padrick] to go outside *when the ship landed on the hilltop* . . . to see a landmark for identification" certainly indicates that the UFO did not spend all its time on the ground after the witness boarded it.

[4]The San Francisco *News Call Bulletin*, February 12.

[5]As an illustration of the danger of such reasoning, we might point out that this same individual, unable to destroy Father Gill's story, holds that the missionary saw only "amorphous" forms in the cockpit of their UFO. Actually, of course, the witness in his report clearly described the occupants as "men" engaged "in human activity of some sort."

[6]". . . on August 19, 1949, two Death Valley, California, prospectors . . . reported seeing a disc crash-land and two little men jump out. The men chased the beings but lost them in the dunes; when they got back, the disc had disappeared." (John Nicholson, in "Little Green Men," *Fantastic Universe*, May 1958.)

[7]J. Vyner, "The Mystery of Springheel Jack," FLYING SAUCER REVIEW,

May/June 1961.

[8]See, for instance, Olavo T. Fontes, "Report from Brazil", *Fantastic Universe*, August 1958.

[9]Gordon Creighton, "The Most Amazing Case of All: Part I", and Charles Bowen, "A South American Trio: on the road from Côrdoba."

Perhaps even more relevantly, Swedish student Olaf Nielsen refers to the interior of a UFO he claims to have boarded (our italics): "The cabin was of a pale green colour, lit by a faint diffused light that had no source. *One would have said that the light came from the walls themselves.*" (Quoted by Gordon Creighton in *The Italian Scene—Part* 4, FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, July/August 1963.)

[10]"One must always bear in mind whilst investigating contact reports that the most important evidence available is the witness himself. The investigator will be used to ascertaining whether the witness is giving objective or subjective judgements about speed, height, etc., but does he note what coloured words the witness uses? By coloured words I mean those likely to carry emotional overtones. To give an extreme example here is part of a fictitious account of a contact of the "evangelical" type: the spaceman radiated a feeling of warmth, well-being, peace and calmness. His voice was soft and melodious and his expression echoed his words: 'We of the Brotherhood wish you Earthlings to cease your nuclear explosions.' " (Peter F. Sharp, B.Sc., in *The Truth: Some Suggestions for the Investigator* FLYING SAUCER REVIEW November/December 1963). Obviously none of these details, so prevalent in the fraudulent claim, are to be found in Padricks' story.

Mercury's Atmosphere

By H. J. Hinfelaar

This item is reproduced, with permission, from Mr. and Mrs. Hinfelaar's Journal SPACEVIEW, **September/November 1964 number. The Journal is published from P.O. Box 21007, Henderson, New Zealand.**

MERCURY, because of its close proximity to our Sun, has always remain some kind of enigma to our astronomers. Its distance of 36,000,000 miles from our main source of life makes it a hard-to-observe-planet for our telescope watchers. Whether right or wrong, our astronomers maintain that it keeps one side of its face towards the Sun with the result that the night side of the tiny planet was considered to be almost as cold as space—whatever temperature that may be. So much for our stalwarts at the telescope.

However, observations made this year at the Parkes radio-astronomy station in New South Wales indicate that the side of Mercury which is never warmed by the Sun has a temperature of about 60 degrees Fahrenheit. This is interpreted to mean that the planet has a slight atmosphere which carries some of the warmth from the sunlit side to the colder regions (the dark side). The existence of a slight atmosphere had earlier been found by Dr. Dollfus when he made polarisation studies at the Pic du Midi Observatory in France.

The well-known Russian astronomer, N. A. Kozyrev, who first detected leakages of gas on the Moon, and who is also known for his studies of the Venusian atmosphere, recently made a spectroscopic search for signs of an atmosphere on Mercury. He concluded that the planet had an atmosphere about 1/10,000th that of the Earth. Kozyrev believed that the Mercurian atmosphere would consist of atomic hydrogen, which would not be heated by the Sun's direct rays but only by contact with the 600-degree heat of the rocky sunlit surface. Then, assuming that atomic hydrogen was present, he predicted that the dark side of the planet must have a temperature of about 86 degrees, a figure that is close to that later found by radio observations.

When the lunar impact rocket, Lunik II, discovered an ionosphere above the Moon, John W. Townsend, Assistant Director of Goddard Space Flight Centre, was the first to state that this could only mean that the Moon has a definite atmosphere. At that time our scientists were already aware that the first Sputnik, while orbiting above our own ionosphere, was unable to detect oxygen on a spectroscopic search.

If we are to accept Parkes' radio-astronomers statement that Mercury has a slight atmosphere, it naturally follows that it must also have an ionosphere. If it has an ionosphere, we cannot be at all sure of Kozyrev's belief that Mercury's atmosphere is made up of atomic hydrogen. After all, our own ionosphere contains atomic hydrogen, but an ionosphere is not an atmosphere and even Kozyrev's spectroscopes would be unable to pierce it in order to determine the quality of its atmosphere.

Not that we doubt that Mercury has an atmosphere, but we somehow have a feeling that it does not consist of atomic hydrogen.

PERSONAL COLUMN

MERSEYSIDE READERS. Why not join your local UFO Research Group? For details of MUFORG membership, write to the Secretary: A. Rawlinson, 24 Saker Street, Liverpool, 4.

F.S.R. BACK NUMBERS required urgently: all issues 1955 and 1956; Nos. 1 to 5 incl. 1957; all issues 1958; Nos. 1 to 4 incl. 1959; all issues 1960; Nos. 1 and 4 for 1961. Can anyone help Dr. P.M.H. Edwards, 4297 Gordon Head Road, VICTORIA, B.C., CANADA.

MAIL BAG

Correspondence is invited from our readers, but they are asked to keep their letters short. Unless letters give the sender's full name and address (not necessarily for publication) they cannot be considered. The Editor would like to remind correspondents that it is not always possible to acknowledge every letter personally so he takes this opportunity of thanking all who write to him.

Ten years, plus

Sir: — Congratulations on the REVIEW's 10th birthday! I hope your most interesting magazine will continue to be published for years to come.

It is with a deep regret and a sense of personal loss I learned of the death of Waveney Girvan. I have always enjoyed his editorials and treasure his book *Flying Saucers and Common Sense*.—Mrs. A. Cuadra, 14 Stanton Court, Orinda, California, U.S.A.

The Lens Flare/UFO problem

Sir,—Please allow me to express my sympathy at the death of Mr. Girvan. I am greatly obliged to him, for without him and his open mind my views about the UFOs would hardly ever have reached the public. It is quite natural that such an inquiring mind as his was also subject to errors. I can assure you that even many professional photographers have only a poor idea of the tricks that light can do in their cameras.

With reference to your article *UFOs? No? Lens Flare? Yes!* in the January/February number, I think that the camouflage-theory can be discarded safely.

1. Let us grant that there is such a "shape" simulated. Will it then be likely that it appears in the correct location opposite a light source?
2. How do the UFOs "know" from which direction they are being photographed or how do they manage to simulate the correct shape for observers in different directions?
3. Different lenses produce under the same circumstances different lens flares. Have the UFO occupants considered the possibility that they are being photographed simultaneously with different objectives? The simulated image would then produce the same images in both cameras, while the genuine reflex images would be different. This is a method to test your theory!

—Luis Schönherr, Erlerstrasse 15, Innsbruck, Austria.

Herr Schönherr's point is taken, but he appears to have missed ours! When we suggested, very speculatively, that UFOs could be simulating lens flare shapes, we did not for one moment imagine that they (the UFOs) could be concerned with appearing on photographs. We were looking for an explanation for the visual *sightings of the "shape". Could this be a shape evolved in the knowledge that mere mortals will say on seeing it: "Ah! When we see that shape on a photograph, we know it is a lens flare, so that thing up there cannot possibily be a UFO!" All part of the deception and confusion stakes.*—EDITOR.

The Brazilian Farmer's Story

Sir,— . . . The Brazilian Farmer's story, about which I received information from Walter Buhler two or three years ago, really worries me. Quite honestly, I am not at all sure that it concerns a craft from "outer" space. My reasons are the following:

1. The men in the crew were wearing "space suits" which did not enable A.V.B. to see their features. Obviously they did not wear the suits because of a difference in atmospheric pressure, as the girl was without one, and A.V.B. did not notice anything affecting him in that way, apart from the nauseating effect after they "treated" him. I am therefore assuming that the suits were worn as a protection against some kind of radiation caused by the craft.
2. Come to think of it, the sponging of A.V.B.'s body may have been a means to neutralise or lessen the dose of radiation already picked up by him. The small superficial ulcers on his face and arms appear to confirm this, as it seems logical to assume that A.V.B. had both arms and face exposed when entering the craft.
3. We have a similar case on record which for security reasons we are unable to publish. I can assure you this is not just another dramatic statement, as it took us four or five years to accumulate all the available evidence. After having sifted the evidence we could only come to one conclusion, and that was that the craft involved, as well as the crew, were of earthly origin.
4. Apparently it is known that the U.S.A. as well as the U.S.S.R. have bases for experimental "UFOs" in the Brazilian jungle. An overseas friend of mine refers me to the European issue of *Life* magazine of June 26, 1950, where mention of the same is made. Unfortunately, I have never obtained a copy.

Maybe the above will give you some food for thought on the A.V.B. case, as it is obvious from accounts received from all over the world that it will be increasingly difficult to discriminate between alien craft and our own as time goes on.—Henk J. Hinfelaar, Editor of *Spaceview*, Journal of N.Z. Scientific Space Research, P.O. Box 21–007, Henderson, New Zealand.

Sir,—Following an article in the January/February number—page 13—"The most amazing Case of All"—here are two ideas—which will probably have occurred to others of your readers.

1. If these space people moved in

and out of their machine still wearing their breathing helmets—how was it that the young farmer did not report any change of air condition when he entered the space craft?

2. The story itself, this is perhaps frivolous! But why so odd or improbable? Supposing other planets *are* inhabited; that "unidentified flying objects" do visit this earth—presumably with a reason. This case might be one of several others that have not been reported—rather naturally. This young farmer might have delivered say—four or five million sperms. Given an advanced space people—they would possibly be ahead of us in artificial insemination—we might assume that at least one million sperms could be "planted"—perhaps *many* more. This happened some eight years ago. Assuming "their" growth rate to be similar to ours (it might be faster), in ten or twenty years from now that planet could have one, two or three million persons sufficiently similar to ourselves—to be able to invade and live on *this* planet. And if this is not an isolated case—why should it be—it would seem that we might be in for trouble — or help — in twenty years time.—"A subscriber from the beginning"—(Name and address supplied).

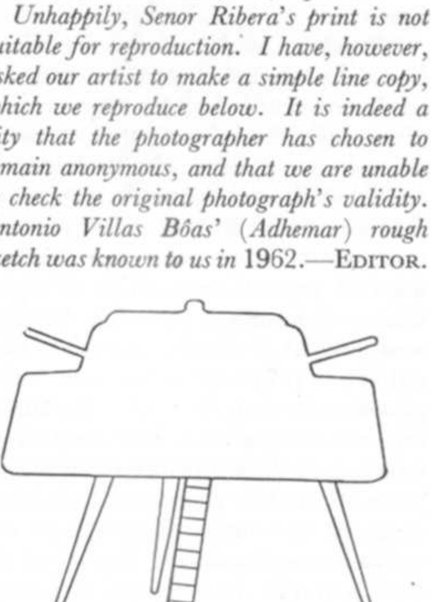
From Antonio Ribera, on on Lens Flares, and "Adhemar's" UFO

Sir,—It was for me a shock to learn about the death of Waveney Girvan, whose cards with his nervous writing I treasure now. In my name, and in those of my friends of the CENTRO DE ESTUDIOS INTERPLANETARIOS, please accept our deepest sorrow for this great loss in the field of ufology.

Regarding the article *UFOs? No! Lens Flare? Yes!* published in the January/February number of the REVIEW, I accept the verdict, generally speaking, but I should like to put forward a remark regarding the Salvat-Llaurado photograph, explained away as another lens flare. Could NICAP, and Mr. Luis Schönherr explain away for me too the **trail, exhaust fumes** or **ionised air** which appears at the left side of the "object", along its longitudinal axis? This is the only doubt I still entertain about its being a material, solid object, and not a lens flare. If you look carefully at the Salvat-Llaurado photograph, you will unmistakeably see this trail.

Regarding also the amazing article published in the same issue about the Brazilian farmer's story, please compare the drawing made up from Adhemar's description of the saucer with the photograph which I enclose. The photograph was published in the Italian *Domenica del Corriere* of September 8, 1963, and the accompanying legend says that it was taken on June 23 of that year in the hills near Genoa, by an anonymous correspondent of the paper. Now the similarity between both "objects" is amazing to say the least. Both have three feet, a ladder in the middle section; they remind one too of the "apparatus" half-seen by Marius Dewilde, which also stood on stilts. My photographic copy is poorer than that published by the *Corriere*, and this in turn must have been poorer than the original copy. It is a pity we cannot study the negative, but the general shape, the ladder and the legs are well seen in my copy.—Antonio Ribera, Roca y Baille, 5, Barcelona, VI, Spain.

Unhappily, Senor Ribera's print is not suitable for reproduction. I have, however, asked our artist to make a simple line copy, which we reproduce below. It is indeed a pity that the photographer has chosen to remain anonymous, and that we are unable to check the original photograph's validity. Antonio Villas Bôas' (Adhemar) rough sketch was known to us in 1962.—EDITOR.



A correction

Sir,—Might I correct a mistake in the January/February issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW?

On pages 23 and 24 you have a report about Graham Thompson seeing a bright red object over Whitby. Then, at the foot of the middle column on page 25 you suggest that this sighting might be connected with sightings over Gateshead.

It is not generally known that there are two places named Whitby in the British Isles. One is the well-known former home of the Venerable Bede, situated on the coast of the North Riding of Yorkshire. The other is in Cheshire. Once a separate village, it is now to all intents and purposes a suburb of Ellesmere Port. As the extract is from the *Ellesmere Port Pioneer* and the person who sent it in lives in the nearby Wirral, it is clear that this sighting took place over Whitby, Cheshire. There is obviously no connection with the Tyneside sightings but with those other sightings from Merseyside and the Wirral area reported on pages 24 and 25 of the same issue. Indeed, Frodsham lies only 8 miles to the east of Ellesmere Port and Whitby, Cheshire, so it is with the Merseyside sightings that the object seen by Graham Thompson must be connected.—Gavin Gibbons, Milhams, Stanley Lane, Shrewsbury.

Thank you, Mr. Gibbons! We should have smelt a rat on seeing that the cutting was from Ellesmere Port Pioneer.—EDITOR.

Gryoscope shaped object

Sir, — In the January/February issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, a report from Scotland held outstanding significance for me, because of the reference to the gyroscopic-like frame you have in your files and an issue of FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, 1958. A report of a huge gyroscopic-like object seen over Rugby in a virtually cloudless mid-day sky.

Seen by myself and four other persons, the object was visible to the naked eye and also viewed through powerful 20× binoculars.

As an ex-Royal Naval Air Service Meteorological Observer, the object was, and still is, unclassified, though very real, and any confirmation of this mysterious object, however slight, will always be welcomed.

As one of your earliest readers, I wish you every success in the quest for the truth.—William McGregor, 172 Addison Road, Rugby, Warwickshire.

The report of Mr. McGregor's sighting was published in the November/December 1958 *issue of the* REVIEW, *page* 7.
—EDITOR.

From Switzerland

Sir,—I am so glad to hold in my hands the latest issue of the REVIEW, that I want to thank you for it. I suppose that eleven years ago, I was among your first subscribers from the Continent. And having been a good friend of our dear Waveney Girvan I know exactly what it means to bring out such a publication, regularly and neatly. . . .

May I congratulate you on your courage to print some of the South American claims, especially the story of "Adhemar". The fact that his account and his person was checked by Dr. Walter Buhler means much to me. I have known him for many years, and have met him twice here in Basle. I am sure he is a truth-loving man.

. . . I would feel fine if I could be of some help to the REVIEW: of course I would love to send you articles from the Swiss press but alas, there is absolutely nothing to be found. I often wonder why the lid is so much more tightly down in my country than in yours. I know our Military Intelligence Service own a fine collection of UFO photographs, and that they keep on file my own (former) publications, mostly translations from the REVIEW, but also a booklet with "UFO-Sichtungen über der Schweiz 1949–1958". To know of the interest in higher places surely is a kind of support and keeps me going, but the silence in all News Agencies is so complete and deep that the public at large has entirely lost interest. UFOs are forgotten in Switzerland. A few friends and I—the last of the Mohicans in this desert island—look with envy at the lively and stimulating scene in your country.—Miss Lou Zinsstag, Gerbergasse 45, Basle, Switzerland.

Power for spacecraft

Sir,—Having read your FLYING SAUCER REVIEW for many years now, it has puzzled me why the locomotion of the space craft is taken for granted to be a complicated process.

Perhaps I'm wrong, but I have thought many hours on this problem of space craft locomotion, and have come to the conclusion that the answer must be a power relative to every planet in the universe. That power, of course, is static electricity, and its by-product, the field force, or an electrostatic field, with radiating lines of force being mutually repellent to each other.

The capacity of a spherical body in electrostatics is directly proportional to its radius in centimetres.

One would theorize that the field force of a saucer, thus aided by the added field force of Earth, has unlimited power for movement up to the corona limit of the sphere. This limit being increased by the consumption of static electricity in the form of the light on top of the saucer.

The lights shown also on the space men's belts could be some form also of static electricity stored for the purpose of shock defence.—S. D. Moorman, 1 Ferry Farm Cottage, Sudbourne, Near Woodridge, Suffolk.

The 1909 New Zealand Airships

Sir,—May I refer to Volume 10. No. 6—*The News Zealand "Flap" of* 1909—Have you any note of the reference in *Flight* magazine, of May 29th, 1909? It reads as follows . . .

"*Phantom Airships and Scare Headlines:* An absurd degree of credence has been accorded by a certain section of the daily Press during the past week or two to what were evidently ridiculously exaggerated statements that emanated from various parts of the country concerning the appearance of mysterious airships by night. Clever though the ruse has been, it was evident from the very first that either a practical joke was being played or that a bold advertising scheme was afoot. The lengths to which speculation of the wildest kind were allowed to go was neither beneficial to the new industry nor calculated to enhance the dignity of the British public in the eyes of foreign nations. Apart from that, however, the game played with illuminated toy balloons of orthodox cigar shape, towed by cars in the still watches of the night, was well conceived from an up-to-date advertiser's standpoint, and was carried out with conspicuous ingenuity and adroitness, while apparently a well known firm of automobile engineers may be suspected of deep complicity in it . . ."

It is interesting to note your reference to the Lithbridge/Caerphilly incident relates to May 18th—and I must say I think the bit about "Illuminated toy balloons of orthodox cigar shape" will provide you with yet another "explanation"!

Secondly in Volume 11. No. 1—The World Round-Up item *Whitby UFO* reads: " 'All of a sudden a white light seemed to streak out of it,' said Graham. "The light went towards us and down . . .' "

The following excerpt is from the last passage of a report published by the *Birmingham Post*, Correspondence column in August, 1954 (copy of letter attached) . . . " 'Its passage was absolutely silent. After the reddish orange flash before final disappearance, a perpendicular tail of whitish light shot downwards from the object. (From) Freda M. Haynes.' "

I have met Mrs. Haynes, and her description was of a quite solid object, which was relatively low—and the beam of light reminded her of a searchlight, suddenly switched on.—Tim Dinsdale, 17 Blewbury Drive, Tilehurst, Reading, Berks.

Another mystery from Florida

Sir,—We receive very little by way of reports in this country and even less from other parts of the world. We have organized a group in St. Petersburg called "The UFO Research Organization" and meet each month on the first Tuesday at 8 p.m.

Interest in UFOs has always been high in this area and is growing due to promotion by NICAP in Washington, D.C. However, we have experienced considerable difficulty in obtaining material that will satisfy the demand for more information.

You are probably aware that the news media in this country has an unofficial policy of withholding news of sightings until a more mundane explanation is forthcoming from the government. This has the result of keeping us completely in the dark since so many of the sightings just plain refuse to be explained away so easily as they would hope.

As an example: In November of

(*Continued on page* 4 *of cover*)

World round-up

of news and comment about recent sightings

ENGLAND

Bristol Channel mystery

The *Bristol Evening Post* of February 13 carried the following report:

"A Bristol Channel search, launched yesterday when a Minehead man and his wife reported seeing an aircraft crash in the sea, was called off today.

"A 90-minute patrol of the area by Minehead lifeboat, two R.A.F. helicopters and a Shackleton revealed nothing.

"Mr. Reginald Eaves, a retired radio operator, of Hopcutt Close, Minehead, told police that he and his wife, Myrtle, saw the plane crash about a mile offshore as they motored across Exmoor.

"The R.A.F. Rescue unit controller at Plymouth said he had checked all military and civil stations in England and nothing was reported missing or overdue. 'It sounds as if the witness is reliable, but you just don't lose aircraft like that,' he added.

Under the headline GHOST PLANE RIDDLE GROWS, the *Western Daily Press* of February 15 gave further details:

"Schoolmaster Mr. A. Rooks Phillips and his wife think they saw the ghost plane which crashed into the sea near Minehead on Friday.

"Mr. Phillips, of Wincanton, saw an unusual aircraft flying low at Swainswick, near Bath. His story supports that of Mr. Reginald Eaves, of Minehead, who saw a strange, low-flying plane crash into the sea near his home.

"But the mystery remains. For a full-scale search by Minehead lifeboat, two RAF helicopters, and a Shackleton failed to find any trace of it.

"Mr. Phillips was driving with his wife to visit friends near Nailsworth. They described it as an ash-grey plane about 100 feet above the road. It was heading in a West to South-westerly direction.

" 'The plane was so unusual that it attracted our attention. There was definitely something abnormal about it. It did not seem to be distinct, but had a misty appearance, yet there was no mist or fog about.

" 'It came from behind some trees. Then it literally just disappeared before our eyes,' said Mr. Phillips.

"He and his wife turned to each other and said simultaneously: 'Ghost plane.'

"Then on Saturday they saw that they had echoed the words in the headline of that day's *Western Daily Press* story about the ghost plane seen by Mr. Eaves.

"Mr. Phillips said: 'It could have been the same plane. It was flying in the general direction of Minehead.

" 'The strange part was that it made no sound, and did not appear to have an engine. But it was certainly not a glider,' said mystified Mr. Phillips."

(Credit to Mr. Arthur E. Hedges of Filton, Bristol, and to Mr. Adrian Mills of London, W.8.)

What the salesman saw

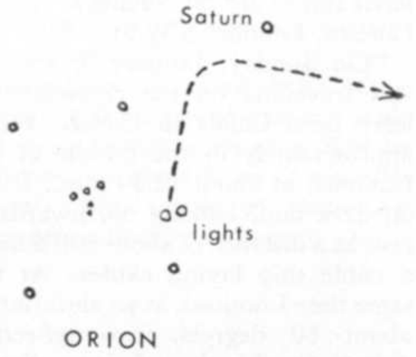
From the *Yorkshire Post* of March 13: "A Salesman is still puzzling over a mystery object in the sky which he spotted from his car late one night. Mr. Derek Newsham, 30, of The Garlands, Clifton, York, yesterday said that he did not believe in flying saucers. But, he went on: 'The object was like a small cone, pale blue-green in colour, with a trail of sparks following it. I have never seen anything like it before.'

"Mr. Newsham explained that the cone was about 1,000 ft. up, shooting over Clifton in the direction of the river. 'I think there must be a perfectly natural explanation. It looked like a stage from a rocket', he added.

"York Police said yesterday that they had not received any reports of an unidentified object being seen over the city."

Star-like objects with a difference were reported in this letter: "On Tuesday, March 2, 1965 at 6.50 p.m. I saw an object in the sky which could have been a UFO. I was looking at the constellation Orion when I noticed two stars (or star-like lights) that were not usually there. As I looked they moved 'up' Orion, then levelled out and flew horizontally until they vanished in the distance. I heard no sound from them, but any sound there was could possibly have been drowned out by the traffic noise. The lights moved too fast to be a satellite and they moved together on a curved path as if one object." J. Goddard, Wynchlands, Walton Bridge Road, Shepperton, Middlesex.

Mr. Goddard provided the following sketch of his sighting:



Mystery object near Dover

This letter to the editor of the *Kentish Gazette*, of Canterbury, was written by Mr. C. H. Watson of 47 Stanhope Road, Dover. The incident was witnessed by his friend Mr. F. Pursey, of 7 Pilgrims Way, Dover. It appeared in the issue dated February 26: "On Sunday, February 14, I was driving home from Whitstable, the evening was dark and I passed through the village of Bridge at approximately 7 p.m. I had commenced the run up the hill leading from the village to Dover, when a dark shape, which I took to be a van without lights, crossed the road from my left to the right about 20 yards ahead, moving quite slowly. It did not turn down the hill towards Bridge, neither did it go up the hill, but seemed to disappear into the churchyard.

"I thought that perhaps I had imagined the apparition, but my friend sitting in the front passenger seat remarked: 'He had no lights nor was there any noise.' We were both very puzzled by the incident, and were convinced that we had seen something unnatural, although we were unaware of any previous reports of this type of encounter. We have since mentioned it to friends and two of them have stated that this has been reported as being sighted before.

"Our wives were in the back seat, and being busy talking noticed nothing unusual and were inclined to treat our statements as a leg pull. The only drink we had was tea, and I assure you we were not joking. I have since passed through Bridge at night and have carefully noted that it could not have been a shadow."

Over the White Cliffs

The following report was made by Mr. John Hart, formerly a R.A.F. navigator, of 91 King's Road, Chelsea, London, S.W.3:

"On Sunday, January 3, 1965, I was travelling on the cross-channel ferry from Calais to Dover. When approximately in the middle of the Channel, at about 12.30 p.m., I was on deck and, looking northwards, I saw, at a distance of about half a mile, a cable ship laying cables. At the same time I noticed, at an elevation of about 60 degrees, two reflecting objects in the sky. I immediately dismissed them as being two high-flying aircraft.

"The day was sunny. There was a Force 6 wind blowing from the north and low, scattered cloud. I was somewhat puzzled to see, after a few minutes, in the break of the clouds, that the two bright silver dots had not moved, either relative to each other, or, apparently, to the ship. Through patches in the cloud, I watched the objects for about four minutes, until they were lost to view as the ship moved on and cloud obscured them.

"I can offer no explanation as to what they were. They were certainly not balloons, as they did not go across the ship down-wind. It is unlikely that they were aircraft, because they did not move at any time that I had them under observation. And their close proximity to each other ruled out any possibility of aircraft on a commercial air route (air traffic regulations enforce precautionary separation).

"I had adequate time to call witnesses, but, unfortunately, the roughness of the sea had cleared the decks, except for a few seasick passengers whose anguished gaze was riveted on the white cliffs of Dover."

(Credit to Mr. Dan Lloyd.)

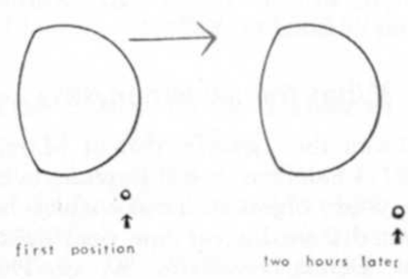
Spot near Moon puzzles F.S.R. personality

The following letter was received on February 19: "At 20.00 hrs on the night of Wednesday, February 17, I noticed below the Moon a small illuminated object, the size of a first magnitude star, but unwinking. It was two degrees of arc below the southern pole of the Moon and about five o'clock.

"At first I took it to be a planet, but further observation revealed that it was much nearer than the Moon The extraordinary feature was that two hours later the object was still there, but slightly further off the S limb of the Moon (which was three-quarters full)

"I was very puzzled—this did not appear to be a meteorological phenomenon —Bernard E Finch, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.C.H., F.B.I.S."

Dr. Finch also kindly sent a diagram showing the relative positions of Moon and "spot" . . .



The Guardian of February 18 carried the following item:

"A 'bright spot' near the moon puzzled meteorologists and members of the public in Britain last night.

"A spokesman for the Central Forecasting Office at Bracknell, Berkshire, said: 'It is not a meteorological phenomenon. It could be some sort of space vehicle in such a position as to reflect enough light to make it visible. It could be a star but it seems unlikely in that position.' The spot might be the last stage of a rocket but this was not clear."

Disintegrating Satellite?

From the Newcastle upon Tyne *Evening Chronicle* of March 12:

"A mysterious flying object was seen travelling over Newcastle and Gateshead last night on a south-easterly course.

"Mr. Thomas Buffey, of Station Road, Kenton Bank Foot, who saw it, says it was definitely not an aircraft.

"Mr. Buffey, a retired Army officer and a company secretary, said today that when he first saw the object his first impression was that it was a comet.

" 'It was a very bright light with a green and yellow tail,' he said, 'and was travelling low in the sky at a very high speed. I watched it disappear over Gateshead and waited for a second or two in case it was an aircraft about to crash There was no sound of any crash, however '

"Mr Buffey saw the object at about 8.15 p.m. 'It is the first time I have seen anything like this. It was so clear other people must have seen it too. I wondered whether it was a satellite returning to earth.' "

(Credit: David Shaw of Sacriston, Co. Durham, and Harry Lord of Heaton, Newcastle.)

There was a divergence of opinion about the time, although the object reported in the Halifax (Yorks) *Courier & Guardian* of the same date could have been the same one:

"Visitors leaving the Royal Halifax Infirmary around 7.30 last night said they saw a mysterious object travelling over the town.

" 'It looked like a ball of fire with a tail of flame and was travelling very quickly,' said one man today. 'It was certainly not an aircraft and seemed much larger than a comet,' he added. 'It was comparatively low and disappeared over the houses. We listened for a bang, but it never came.'

"The object was seen by several people who wondered whether it was a satellite burning up and coming to earth."

Was it the same object that was seen over Merseyside, and reported in the Liverpool *Echo* on March 12?

"Reports of an unidentified flying object which lit up the sky as it travelled fast from north to south poured into the *Echo* office last night.

" 'In some ways it resembled a meteorite, but I am sure that it was not.' said Mr. H. D. Barry, of Aughton Green, Ormskirk.

'It made a tremendous swishing noise as it travelled across the sky from north-west to south-east.'

" 'The object was travelling at a fantastic speed. It was well above the horizon when it suddenly vanished.'

"The object was also seen by a

Gateacre man as he arrived home from work at 8.10 p.m. **'It was bright enough to read a paper by for a few seconds'** he said. 'In some ways it looked like a comet with a fiery tail. When I last saw it, it disappeared over the tenement flats at Gateacre, travelling towards Widnes.' "

AUSTRALIA

Thousands witness New South Wales sky objects

"Thousands of people in eastern New South Wales last night saw a group of unidentified flying objects cross the sky from north to south", says the Sydney *Daily Telegraph* of March 6. The report continues:

"Observers said they remained visible for periods ranging from a few seconds to two minutes.

"Neither meteorological nor RAAF authorities could account last night for the mystery objects. The Air Force had no aircraft in the area at the time, but Professor S. T. Butler, Professor of Theoretical Physics at the University of Sydney, said he was 'inclined to believe that the mystery objects were aircraft.'

"Professor Butler said he did not believe the objects were satellites because of their behaviour pattern. 'Their speed and colouring, as well as the number, make it unbelievable that they were satellites,' he said.

" 'I am also inclined to doubt the meteorite theory because of the length of time for which they were viewed, their clarity and their formation pattern. That leaves, at this stage, only one possibility—aircraft.' "

Later in the same report we learn that: "The Director of the Belfield Observatory (Mr. G. Patston) said 50 members of the N.S.W. Astronomical Society at Belfield observed the objects for about 30 seconds.

"Mr. Patston added: 'We could not see them through telescopes because they were moving too fast. The objects appeared about 7.40 p.m. about 30 degrees above the horizon and about 25 degrees west of north, travelling the south-east.

" 'The looked like a bursting skyrocket.

" 'We recorded eight objects in the group. They had glowing heads and bright reddish-orange tails about 20 times longer than the heads. The first object had vanished while the last one was crossing the sky about 50 degrees behind it.' "

According to a report in the *Sun-Herald* of March 7: "The height, speed and path of the objects made it almost certain they were parts of a satellite, said Mr. G. Patston, director of Belfield Observatory.

"He said he would ask U.S. satellite authorites if one of their satellites was due to leave its orbit at the time the flying objects were seen."

Top marks for a really novel explanation to Dr. Bart Bok, of the Mount Stromlo Observatory, who, according to the Sydney *Daily Telegraph*—"said mystery lights reported over N.S.W. tonight probably resulted from the movement of Jupiter into the evening sky. This could have caused reflections in the atmosphere, producing flashes, Professor Bok said.

"He said the movement of Jupiter occurred for about a month in each year. Reports of flashing lights were common at these times.

"The lights probably would be visible for several days, Professor Bok said."

(Credit to Michael G. Howes of Roydon, Essex.)

BRAZIL

Saucer drops electronic device

The following account, translated for us by Gordon Creighton, comes from the Rio de Janeiro daily *O Jornal* of February 7, 1965. The article, which appeared under the headline "FLYING SAUCER" OR NOT, IT LEFT BEHIND THE PROOF, was datelined Fortaleza (N.E. Brazil), February 6:

"A mysterious aerial craft, which was immediately taken to be a flying saucer, dropped a strange and complicated piece of machinery at Tabuleiro do Norte, a place in the interior of this State of Ceará.

"Terrified, a large number of people watched the flying saucer shoot across the sky at a great height, displaying intense luminosity. It then stopped abruptly, as though suddenly brought to a halt, and then moved off again at high speed.

"One of the witnesses, perhaps one of the bravest of them, was the farm-worker José Guerreiro Chagas. He ran towards the place where the object fell that had been dropped by the strange machine (which, so far as he was concerned, was a flying saucer). He found the object, and then ran as fast as he could to the local office of the *Diários Associados*, the News Agency here in this State Capital (Fortaleza), and handed over to them his find. The latter, in fact, resembles a small electronic device, used perhaps on a balloon for investition of the Stratosphere and sent up from some meteorological post.

"The farm-worker's story, related to hundreds of members of the rural populace here, is causing a tremendous sensation."

Not only does this sound like a UFO: it sounds also like a typical cover-up. If the sighting is causing a sensation, then the authorities are bound to say it was off a balloon. The curtain of silence has descended on Brazil—EDITOR.

CHILE

An old report that has come to us recently in a batch from Argentina, is this item which the daily newspaper *Córdoba* quoted from the Chilean newspaper *La Tercera de la Hora* in its issue of May 28, 1964: "A large area of the coast of Chile was agog after a spectacular sighting between 8 and 9 p.m. on April 9, when scores of people in the seaside resorts of El Quisco, San Antonio, Cartagena (all lying just south of Valparaiso), had seen an impressive display of aerobatics by a saucer. The first witnesses were a party of local officials and professional men who found themselves and their car beneath the saucer which blinded them with its dazzling light. It then flew out to sea, where it danced and zigzagged about, changing colour from time to time, and shooting out red flashes. In shape it was a flattish disc, with portholes around the edge. The Chilean paper's comment was: 'This report presents just one more problem for the investigators who, all over the world, are trying to find out what these strange luminous bodies are, which have astonished and amazed the population of vast areas of Chile, and where they come from.' "

The Córdoba paper adds: "Coming on top of the recent happenings in Uruguay and the one at Socorro, close

to an American rocket-base, this latest report from Chile shows quite plainly that there is no question of mirages, mock-suns, fireballs, sonde-balloons and all the other explanations that are being offered to conceal the existence of flying saucers coming from other worlds. The evidence for this is, as Professor Hermann Oberth says, unquestionable and supported by eyewitness accounts gathered by scientific investigators all over the world."

FRANCE

Secret Services get-together on UFOs?

The Bordeaux newspaper *Sud-Ouest* of February 17 carried the headline SURPRISING LECTURE AT MOURENX over the following account: 'George Langelaan, novelist, journalist, and ex-officer of the Intelligence Service who, during the War, was parachuted into France after he had been given a new face by plastic surgery, gave a lecture on Monday evening at Mourenx, Landes, where he had been specially invited.

"In the course of his talk, the former secret agent, author of a project of his own for the establishment of liaison between Britain and Occupied France, which project he himself carried through to a successful conclusion, made some quite sensational statements about the aims and methods of present-day espionage, which differ entirely from the aims and methods of the last War.

"The 1965 secret agent, he said, is far more interested in Meteorology and in the Moon than in terrestrial matters. Two years ago, he recalled, while Europe was having a very wet summer, Russia was suffering such a period of drought that her wheat crop was practically wiped out. The simple explanation was that it was the result of an experiment that failed. The rain-clouds destined for the Ukraine had burst too soon.

"On the subject of Flying Saucers, George Langelaan, who seems extremely well informed, declares that **the Russian and American Secret Services have collaborated** and have arrived, so he says, at this astonishing conclusion: THE FLYING SAUCERS EXIST, THEIR SOURCE IS EXTRATERRESTRIAL, AND THE FUTURE—RELATIVELY QUITE SOON—SHOULD PERMIT CONFIRMATION OF THIS STATEMENT."
(Credit to M. Claude Devismes. Translation by G. Creighton.)

ITALY

Luminous Wheels

The following two reports from Italy came to us in a very round about way. They are somewhat old, but we publish them because they are probably new to our readers, and of considerable interest.

From the Buenos Aires newspaper *Pregón* of July 5, 1964, we learn that: " 'Luminous wheels' were seen by many people in the region of San Ferdinando di Puglia, Italy. On the first occasion, the night of June 21, 1964, one 'wheel' was seen, and remained visible for about two minutes. It seemed to have come from the direction of the Moon, and swept in a wide arc through the clear and cloudless sky, and vanished in the north-east. The same thing was observed again, at the same time, on the nights of several of the following days, and again on the night of July 2. On most occasions the trajectory followed was the same, but on the night of June 24 (there was an eclipse of the Moon) witnesses said the 'luminous wheel' zigzagged through the sky. On the night of July 2, many people waiting on the beach to see the 'wheels' or 'white lights' saw three of them. First came two, spinning round like propellors, which came down so low that they looked as big as bicycle wheels. Then a third one joined them and, after a few evolutions in the sky, all three vanished as usual towards the north-east."

Palermo stop watch

La Neuva Provincia, a daily newspaper from Bahía Blanca, Argentina told on August 25, 1964, how: "Luminous flying saucers had again been sighted over Palermo in Sicily. One of the objects flew over a crowd of people who were watching an open-air cinema show, and then climbed away and vanished towards the west. A Signor Giulio Sciacca who was in the audience told the press that he found his watch had stopped at the precise moment when the UFO passed overhead, and that, on his asking his neighbour what the time was, the neighbour found that his watch too has stopped, and so had many other watches of people in the audience—except for those which were *anti-magnetic*."

NEW ZEALAND

Saucers in Sky . . .

So ran the headline of the *Christchurch Star* of February 4, and the news item told of:

"Reports of fast-moving celestial lights, motionless saucer-like objects in the sky, and glowing white things rising from the sand dunes at South Brighton brought a touch of H.G. Wells to Christchurch yesterday.

"Returning to his home in Rockinghorse Road, New Brighton, at about 8.45 p.m. yesterday, an electrician saw what he thought was the light from a fire on the beach at the end of Penguin Street.

"But when he left his car to investigate, he heard an oscillating whistling and watched with astonishment as an object 20 ft. wide rose from the beach. It disappeared at a height of about 50 ft.

"His wife said there was no doubt that when her husband returned home last night he was very startled. Neither she nor the half dozen guests who were in the house at the time saw the light. They were all watching television. But when her husband told them about it an expedition set out immeditately.

"Between the dunes at the end of Penguin Street they found an area of flattened grass. The family's Alsation bitch became 'quite excited' and sniffed around the whole area.

"The electrician was apparently, the only person to see the object. Many of the houses in that area of Rockinghorse Road are empty. A woman who lives in the house nearest the end of Penguin Street said she had been out on the beach quite late but had seen and heard nothing.

Shocks on Ground at Christchurch

"At about 5.30 p.m. yesterday,

(*continued on page* 3 *of cover*)

Two types of Scepticism

by Wade Wellman

When he submitted this article, Mr. Wellman, a regular contributor to the *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*, was unaware that a new article by Dr. Donald Menzel had been accepted for publication in this issue.

IT has seemed to me for some time that Donald H. Menzel and Patrick Moore stand forth as two distinct types of UFO sceptic, each capable of much delineation as a *type*. Moore, in his useful and readable astronomy books, falls back on personal references and autobiographical comments with such frequency that he unconsciously reveals his own colossal egotism and essentially self-centered approach. There is far less excuse for this in scientific writing than in any other field, and Moore, safely omniscient, probably doesn't worry about the effects of this approach on some of his readers. Dr. Menzel's published writings show none of this fault, and perhaps he has less reason to assert himself, for he is an established professional, while Moore is a brilliant amateur whose actual contributions to scientific research have been negligible. Yet, however different their approaches to scientific research and science writing, both men are strangely blind to the most obvious and logical solution to the flying saucer question.

Of course they differ greatly in their blindness; in each case very different causes seem to operate. Menzel is emotionally involved in the field to such a degree that his intellectual operation seems to be, in this one respect, a trifle paralyzed. But Moore, however knowledgeable in astronomy and science generally, is a shallow man who does not approach any mystery with the studious interest of a Menzel type. Lately I have been rereading his books on planetary astronomy, and in his *Guide to Mars* (New York, 1956) I again notice this comment on H. G. Wells's masterpiece—a comment remarkable for its studied obtuseness:

"Wells set the fashion in his famous novel, *The War of the Worlds*, in which inhuman, all-conquering Martians descended upon the Earth and almost wrecked it before they were destroyed by terrestrial germs unknown upon their own planet. Like most of his subsequent imitators, Wells made his Martians thoroughly evil. Actually, this is illogical; the creatures of the Red World, if they existed, would hardly be both intelligent and evil. They would probably have reached a stage beyond our own condition of collective insanity, and the very last thing they would be likely to do would be to visit us equipped with heat-throwers, ray-guns and other impedimenta which belong more properly to boys' "comic papers." (p. 87).

All of which simply means that Moore has read the book with half an eye. Obviously, Wells never conceived the Martians as evil or morally culpable for their actions. In the very first paragraph of the novel—which I've been mulling over since the age of nine, if I may be forgiven an autobiographical reference myself—Wells describes his Martians as "minds that are to our minds as ours are to those of the beasts that perish." This description, constantly reiterated and variously rephrased as the story progresses, immediately sets the terms in which the entire story must be read. Wells brutally reinforces the point that, in seizing the Earth and crushing human opposition, the Martians are no more guilty or evil than an expedition of human settlers moving into unexplored territory and destroying pestiferous animals *en passant*. From comments elsewhere in his writings, I infer that Moore has read the novel many times and found it most exciting, but the entire philosophy of the book has escaped him completely. He is not fundamentally a serious thinker, and his comments on the UFO are just as foolish and trifling as his chronic misunderstanding of Wells.

Dr. Menzel, in contrast, is a man of great intellectual stature and consistently reflects a wide range of thought and of sober interest, not only in astronomy—nor even merely in science. Unlike Moore, he cannot be charged either with shallowness or with triviality, as Aimé Michel once charged in this journal. His obsession with the UFO field, in which he professes to have no belief at all, strikes me as an effort to convince *himself* as much as the public—albeit unconsciously. In fact, this continuing emotional involvement with the area may well be due to a subsconscious or semi-conscious desire to believe it. Anyone who has the slightest acquaintance with psychology, and who knows the long history of Menzel's investigation, will perceive a strong inner conflict.

To begin with, Menzel's whole approach is contradictory. First contending that all reported UFOs are either misidentified conventional objects or natural phenomena, he then sets out, in his two books, and various articles, to explain certain

individual cases. We might well ask, "Why bother?" If a reported UFO is not a spaceship or anything of remarkable significance, what possible difference does it make whether the object eventually turns out to be a weather balloon, a temperature inversion, a bolide, or a delta-wing fighter plane? Why worry about it? Menzel's state of mind is like that of a night-hiker who sees a vehicle dash past on a distant highway, and then spends weeks or months trying to establish whether it was a motorcycle, a moving van, a pick-up truck, or some type of automobile. My friend Richard Hall of NICAP, noting this discrepancy, once wrote to the magazine *Newsweek:* "It is interesting that Menzel was able to write two complete books about nothing."

Actually it now seems that Menzel has withdrawn from the UFO controversy, at least provisionally, if only because he has grown sated on the subject. His last publication on this subject, as I believe, was the criticism of Aimé Michel, which goaded Michel to some rather foolish insults, even if the rebuttal was mathematically valid. Whether Menzel has finished his contribution or not, we are entitled to ask why a man of such undeniable scientific competence and remarkable intellectual capacity has devoted so much time and energy to a field which he has privately spoken of as "this cockeyed junk."

Whatever the psychology behind it, I would like to call atttention to an unguarded slip in his second book, *The World of Flying Saucers* (New York, 1963). A slightly revised edition is now in print, but, not having obtained a copy, I must quote from the first edition. After postulating a solution to the Nash-Fortenberry sighting—a suggestion which, though speculative and vulnerable, will here go unrebutted—Menzel writes the following:

"Obviously this solution does not identify the particular beacon, searchlight, or other ground light that produced the Chesapeake Bay discs. But it does offer a highly probable explanation that is consistent with all the observations *and does not depend on the presence of an extraterrestrial spacecraft.*" (p. 265, my emphasis).

In this italicized passage, Menzel has admitted that one of the attractions of this theory, actually one of the weakest solutions in his book, is its disposal of the spaceship theory—in this particular case. His basic purpose, in other words, is not to explain what those discs were, but to show that they were not interplanetary vehicles. And, to demonstrate their non-interplanetary nature, he is in this case forced to choose the natural phenomenon which most nearly fits the pilots' description. I contend that the italicized section deprives his entire approach of any real scientific validity. As a scientist, he should examine the problem in each instance with the intention of discovering the real nature of the reported objects—not with the intention of proving that they are *not* members of a specific class (spaceships or anything else). With the best will in the world, it is impossible to believe Dr. Menzel's statement, in the introduction of his book, that he reached his original decision against the interplanetary saucer "with a slight feeling of disappointment!"

In conclusion, I suggest that Dr. Menzel concern himself with a new problem—the durability of "this cockeyed junk." Interest in this subject has increased spectacularly, at least on the American scene, within the last few months. At the present writing (February 12, 1965) NICAP has sold well over 6,000 copies of its Report, *The UFO Evidence*, and sales are continuing at the rate of fifteen to twenty copies per day. Several thousand favourable letters have reached the office as a result of Major Donald E. Keyhoe's article in the January issue of *True*. Incidentally, the style of this article was far below Keyhoe's usual standards, as it was shortened and drastically rewritten by the editor; but Keyhoe approved the final draft as factual. May it be repeated that Dr. Menzel is a very fine professional astronomer and Moore is an exeptional amateur; but these are not the men who will go down as contributors to the slow, painful unravelling of the deepest mystery of our times.

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Some Corrections

By René Fouéré

Dr. Carl Sagan of Harvard College Observatory recently objected to a statement attributed to him in the article ADAMSKI'S LAST CHANCE **which appeared in the September/October 1964 issue of the** *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW*. **We here publish the author's correction and apology, and add our own apologies to Dr. Sagan. This article, which was also published in the February number of** PHÉNOMÈNES SPATIAUX, **organ of G.E.P.A. of Paris, has been translated by Gordon Creighton.**

IN matters that excite the imagination and still lie on the fringes of official Science, the job of being a scrupulous reporter is an extremely difficult one. Whoever devotes himself to it may have to face sudden and disagreeable surprises. We have just had proof of this twice in the space of a few days.

First surprise: Mr. Charles Bowen, who is at present acting as editor of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, has sent us a letter dated 30th November 1964, addressed to Waveney Girvan by Dr. Carl Sagan of Harvard College Observatory. In this letter, Dr. Sagan wrote as follows:

"My attention has been drawn to the fact that, on page 28 of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW, in an article by René Fouéré entitled *Adamski's Last Chance*, I am quoted as considering the possibility that the changes occuring in the local brightness of the Moon might be due to the activity of some extraterrestrial intelligence. Quite to the contrary, I think that the changes observed recently in Alphonsus and Aristarchus have perfectly plausible geophysical explanations, and I have never expressed the opinion attributed to me."

We ourselves have never had the least intention of canvassing or distorting Dr. Sagan's ideas—nor indeed anyone else's—and we tender him our apologies, but we ourselves, acting in complete good faith, were misled.

In fact, in *Science et Vie*, issue No. 559, of April, 1964, on page 62, is to be found an unsigned article: "Strange Lights on the Moon", in which (pages 64 and 65) the following lines appear:—

" . . . Finally, nothing debars us from imagining—though here we are falling somewhat into science fiction—that the bright spots that have been seen might have had an artificial origin, providing evidence of the activity of intelligent beings on the surface of the Moon.

It is certain that life cannot have developed on our satellite, but if an expedition of extraterrestrial astronauts coming from interstellar Space explored our Solar System, one can well imagine that these astronauts would establish a base on the Moon, even if only for the purpose of studying the Earth from close by without being spotted. In a recent article on interstellar travel, published in the review *Planetary and Space Science*, the very reliable American astrophysicist Carl Sagan calmly considered such a possibility as this, which still arouses the very greatest reservations on the part of most astronomers . . ."

Our article on Adamski will at least have had this useful result of acquainting us with the precise opinion of Dr. Sagan as regards the recent lunar observations relating to the craters Alphonsus (Kozyrev, November 1958) and Aristarchus (Greenacre and Barr, October and November 1963).

Second surprise: In our last bulletin, taking as our basis the text of an article in the review *Fate* of which the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW had given a résumé following our article on Adamski, we had thought that we were justified in saying that Professor Ernst J. Opik (whose *An Introduction to Astronomy* was recently published by Payot) had seriously suggested an explanation of the discrepancy between the measured oblate appearance of Mars and the orbital speed of its satellite Phobos.

Now, while searching during these past few days to ascertain where we could have read the opinion improperly attributed to Dr. Sagan, we hit upon an article, "The Case For Life on Mars", which appeared in the March/April 1963 issue of the "U.F.O. Investigator", and which gave us a painful surprise. From this we have translated the following significant passage:—

"The discovery of an enormous abnormal bulge which apparently exists on the equator of Mars was discussed in 1962 by Dr. Ernst J. Opik, an eminent astrophysicist. Direct measurements, made by nine astronomers of repute, would indicate, so Dr. Opik has stated, a considerable bulge around the equator. These

skilled observations, Opik declared, were based on different methods and 'cannot by any possible means be attributed to ordinary errors.'

"Dr. Opik went on to make a surprising statement: 'If one prefers fanciful explanations, this is a good moment to suggest that the equatorial bulge is hollow, a sort of roof constructed by the Martians who lived—or who still live—beneath it, enjoying perhaps the advantages of an artificially conditioned atmosphere and climate.'

"With scientific prudence, Opik adds that the bulge may be an optical illusion caused by some unusual atmospheric effect, but the observations made by Tumpler, Muller and, moreover, by the nine experienced astronomers, seem to rule out this possibility."

Our readers have read for themselves the very terms used by Opik: "If one prefers fanciful explanations." One cannot say therefore that he firmly put forward this daring explanation, however justifiable it may be on paper. We owe it to ourselves to say this. Note, by the way, that when he begins suggesting fanciful explanations, Professor Opik does not stop half-way, for he goes on to consider the possibility that Martians might still be living under the imaginary artificial bulge! Then again, while he does call this explanation fanciful, he by no means states it to be absurd.

Before we had come across the passage which we have just quoted, we had received a letter from one of our G.E.P.A. members, M. André Boudineau who, finding both improbable and contrived the proposition which we had taken in all seriousness from Professor Opik, sought an entirely natural explanation for the anomaly for which we want to account. The explanation which he proposes—a very ingenious one—has the drawback that it requires that Mars, in the previous course of its existence, should have passed through some pretty fantastic "adventures" which to us seem quite unprovable. According to M. Boudineau, Mars was originally orbiting in a warm region of the Solar System and revolving more rapidly than now, and so could have had the marked bulge which we now detect. But later on, according to this theory, Mars having changed its orbit suddenly, grew colder abruptly, and its mass shrank beneath the swelling, which latter had solidified suddenly. Between this congealed swelling, due to the cold, and the inner mass which was contracting, an almost empty or—at any rate—a spongy area would have been formed, whose abnormally low density would explain the anomaly now found to exist.

To our way of thinking, this ingenious "natural" explanation could scarcely be less extraordinary than the artificial explanation. The optical illusion which Professor Opik invokes would be a better one, but it is very difficult to believe in it, and so Mars still remains most decidedly one of the most puzzling of planets.

An 1880 UFO

By Lucius Farish

IT would seem that some of our most detailed and interesting UFO sightings come from those years when thoughts of space visitors never crossed the minds of the persons involved. Although many sightings of strange aerial objects were undoubtedly classified as "meteors", still another popular explanation was the "balloon" theory. We will meet with this theory in the following account taken from the pages of the June, 1964 issue of *True West* Magazine:

Galisteo's Apparition

"Editor's Note: The following story, submitted by Phil Cooke, appeared in the *Daily New Mexican*, Santa Fé, in 1880. Galisteo Junction is now known as Lamy.

" 'GALISTEO JUNCTION, N.M., March 26, 1880—Tonight soon after the arrival of the train from Santa Fé, as the operator at this point and two or three friends were taking a short walk before retiring for the night, they were startled by voices evidently coming from above them. At first they supposed it was from some persons on the mountains near here, known as the Sierra Colorada, but on looking upward they were astonished to see a large balloon coming from the West.

" 'As it rapidly approached, the voices became more distinct but were entirely unintelligible. Loud shouts, in a language entirely unknown to any of the party, were constantly given, evidently with a desire to attract attention.

" 'The construction of the balloon was entirely different to anything of the kind ever seen by any of the party, being in the shape of a fish, and at one time was so low that fanciful characters on

the outside of the car, which appeared to be very elegant, were plainly seen.

" 'The air machine appeared to be entirely under the control of the occupants, and appeared to be guided by a large fanlike apparatus. The party seemed to be enjoying themselves, as laughter and occasionally strains of music were heard.

" 'A few articles were dropped from the car as the balloon passed over the Junction, but owing to the imperfect light the only thing which was found was a magnificent flower, with a slip of exceedingly fine silk-like paper, on which were some characters resembling those on Japanese tea chests. One article which from its weight when thrown from the car, seemed to be a cup or some other piece of earthenware, could not be found tonight, but diligent search will be made for it in the morning.

" 'The balloon was monstrous in size, and the car, as near as could be judged, contained eight or ten persons. Another peculiar feature of the air machine was that the occupants could evidently sail at any height they chose, as soon after passing the Junction, it assumed a great height and moved off very rapidly towards the east.

" 'LATER:—The cup thrown from the balloon last night was found this morning. It is of very peculiar workmanship, entirely different to anything used in this country. Both flower and cup are in possession of the operator at the Junction, and can be seen by anyone who desires to see them.

" 'GALISTEO JUNCTION, March 27, 9 p.m.—This evening a collector of curiosities passed through this place and on being shown the magnificent flower and cup dropped from the balloon which passed over this place last night, offered such a sum of money for them that it could not be refused and he became the possessor of them. He gives it as his opinion that the balloon must have come from Asia, and thinks it possible it came from Jeddo.' "

We will recognize in the above narrative a few similarities between this mysterious airship and those seen in 1896 and 1897 over several sections of the United States. The balloon is described as having the shape of a fish. This would correspond with our present-day sightings of cigar-shaped "mother ships".

The airship was "apparently guided by a large fanlike apparatus". The *San Francisco Call* for November, 19, 1896, contained drawings of the airship that passed over Sacramento, California, on November 17, 1896. The drawings clearly show four "fans" or "propellors" on the sides of this aerial craft. UFOs with fans or propellors have also been reported in more recent times.

Readers of the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW will doubtless be familiar with the idea of "infiltration". That is, in the view of some researchers, occupants of the UFOs are said to be living among us, incognito, for they so closely resemble Earthman that they have no difficulty in escaping recognition. With this hypothesis in mind, let us consider the enigmatic "collector of curiosities." His role in this story is most imporant. How conveniently he arrived on the scene only one day after the occurrence! He was easily able to retrieve the "physical evidence" from the scene and implant the "conventional" explanation of a balloon from "Jeddo". Jeddo is the former name for the present-day city of Tokyo, Japan. When we consider the size and performance of the mysterious sky object, we are forced to conclude that its Earthly origin seems most unlikely. Surely no Japanese inventor of 1880 could build a propelled balloon which could assume a great height and move rapidly, not to mention navigating the Pacific Ocean!

To sum up, we would say that the characteristics and performance of this object definitely brand it as a "true" UFO, while the actions of our "collector" perhaps lend new evidence in favour of the "infiltration" theory.

PRIMITIVE OCEAN ON THE MOON?

A prominent scientist suggested on February 10 that, when astronauts land on the moon, they will find the remains of a primitive ocean, nearly as old as earth. It was also possible that much of the lunar surface was covered with a sandy material with a depth from 10 yards to half a mile.

The controversial suggestions were made by Dr. Harold Urey, Professor of Chemistry at the University of California, at a space symposium in Denver, Colorado. He said the oceanic remains which might smell far worse than the swamps of today, could once have been part of the bodies that became moon and earth. For evidence he referred to meteorites in which had been found what could be biological remains.

—from *The Times* of February 11, 1965

UFOs and the Scottish Seas

By W. S. Robertson

This contribution was received shortly after Antonio Ribera's article UFOs AND THE SEA **had gone to press for the November/December 1964 issue of the** *FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.* **In view of February's addition to the mysteries of the Scottish seas, it was indeed fortunate that this article was held over for publication in this issue.**

FOR the actual size of the country, Scotland has one of the longest (and loveliest) coastlines to be found anywhere in the World. It twists and turns where the sea carves great gashes, and myriad smaller indentations, into the heart of the ancient mountains. Nor must we forget the sweeping inroads made by the sea into the lowland plains as well. Beyond the mainland, countless islands tumble into the turbulent waters, or hang stretched in loops and festoons towards the West. Small wonder, with such a coastline, that Scotland's seas have been the scene of many mysteries. On examination, many of these mysteries would seem also to be part of the great UFO enigma.

Scotland has had its share of UFO sightings. Not that there have been very many sensational reports; there is little doubt that some of them can be explained quite simply as "conventional" satellites and meteors, as in fact were many of the 1961 starlike objects. However, there was an object seen from Glasgow and Paisley towards the end of that year, which was described as a "pencil aglow", while at Aberfoyle, a mysterious light was seen flashing from the top of Ben Lomond. Again, one of the most oustanding reports of 1962 concerned a sky object which had a tail, and a ball of light. That particular sighting was made by a train driver at the Barony Power Station near Auchinleck.

While I do not doubt that other sky sightings have featured in the REVIEW's World Round-Up columns, I would like to recall some happenings at sea which have been quite sensational compared to those up aloft! My sources have mostly been reports appearing in the Scottish newspapers, *Daily Record*, *Sunday Mail* and *Sunday Post*.

On February 27, 1961, the steamer *Boston Gannet* was plying between Lewis and Harris in the outer Hebrides, when its officers and crew witnessed a strange object twisting and turning and falling into the sea. Several ships raced to the spot at the mouth of Loch Seaforth, but found nothing: no aeroplanes were missing from airfields, and certainly no aircraft were reported missing from flights over Scotland. The mystery remained unsolved.

Five months later, on July 15, the crews of two trawlers off the coast of Barra heard an explosion. One of the skippers said it was in the air, yet no rockets had been fired from the Benbecula firing range in the Hebrides. No planes were in difficulties that day, and nothing was ever found.

On Christmas day, 1961, the Broughty Ferry searched fruitlessly for three hours for a "ship" in distress, following reports of mysterious flares off the Fife coast.

In 1962, the first report came on March 11, when an object was seen falling into the sea west of the main Shetland Islands. The Aith lifeboat was called out, but found no trace of wreckage. Then on March 24, ships were told to avoid an unidentified object in the sea between Orkney and Shetland! I wonder whether or not these objects were in the famous "Revolving Wheel" category.

On April 6, 1962, aircraft, ships and even swimmers, searched in vain for a mysterious object seen in the Moray Firth; it had been reported by various people as a boat, or persons, in difficulties. The search was later called off.

June 10 saw yet another unexplained object in the sea, this time off the West Coast. Then on July 22, explosions were heard IN the sea, for which no explanation has ever been given. According to those who heard it, the detonation was the equal of that to be expected from 50 to 100 tons of T.N.T. This report came from the atomic station at Eskdalemuir.

After this, there was a long pause until March 9, 1963, when yet another "flare" off the coat of Aberdeen sparked off more fruitless searching. From then until quite recently, things have been quiet. I confess, however, that my records have not been kept up meticulously, but I now wonder if a new sea-sighting wave is beginning, when we read of the first case of 1965 in the *Daily Mail* of February 5. Once again the island of Barra was the scene.

The trawler *Star of Freedom* (70 tons) from Fleetwood, Lancashire, struck an unidentified object in the early hours of the morning of February 3. She was steaming at the time at nine knots in 80 fathoms, 15 miles E.S.E. of Barra. The crash lifted her bows from the water. A distress call was

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HIGHLIGHTS FROM RECENT BACK NUMBERS

1963

July/August
The Weirdest Craft of All

November/December
Recent Developments in Orthoteny
by Jaques Vallée

1964

January/February
Saucers over Southampton
by Peter J. Kelly

March/April
Menzel v. Michel

May/June
The Cosford UFO

July/August
The Menzel-Michel Controversy
by Jaques Vallée

September/October
Spindle in the Sky

November/December
UFOs and the Sea
by Antonio Ribera

1965

January/February
The Most Amazing Case of All
by Gordon Creighton
(Continued in subsequent issues)

March/April
Gravity Powered Objects
by Paul Norman

sent out, and the crew manned the pumps. Eventually the badly holed trawler was beached in Castlebay harbour.

Skipper George Wood is convinced that he hit a surfacing submarine, but both British and American naval authorities denied that any of their submarines was responsible, and refused to comment on the possibility that a foreign vessel had been involved.

It is beginning to look like just another UFO in the sea mystery.

Why do they single out Scotland for so much attention. Are they busy mapping and exploring that enormous coastline? Again, we must not forget that Scotland, although relatively small, has large tracts of mountainous and sparsely populated country, and uninhabited islands. Or is there another reason? Would it be because Scottish waters contain that highly publicised base for a Polaris submarine squadron?

WORLD ROUND UP (*continued from page* 30)

three young men driving along Fendalton Road saw a shining oblong object motionless in the sky in the direction of Darfield.

" 'At first we thought it was a plane coming straight in our direction,' said Mr. John Brock. 'But when we noticed it remained stationary we started taking notice.' Mr. Paul Leonard, who was with him, estimated the height at between 500 and 1,000 feet. The object remained well in view until they turned left at the end of Fendalton Road.

"At 9.30 last night there were reports of bright and moving objects travelling from north to south. One report said the object appeared to be descending at an angle.

"The Meteorological Services staff at Christchurch Airport had its radar scanner operating between 4.15 p.m. and 6 p.m. yesterday, and was using weather balloons, but recorded 'absolutely nothing' unusual.

"The Civil Aviation radar equipment was not working because it is only manned in poor weather.

"The United States Navy's radar equipment was also idle."

FOOTNOTE: "An unidentified flying object, similar to that sighted by a South Brighton man off the New Brighton beach last night, was seen by a Woodend, Invercargill woman last night."—P.A.

More UFOs over Canterbury

The Christchurch flap continued. From *The Press* of February 5 we learn that:

"About 10 p.m. yesterday someone reported to *The Press* that a man had come to his house at Rockinghorse Road and reported seeing a strange object. He refused to go along the road unless the resident came with him. The resident did, but saw nothing.

"Meanwhile other persons report seeing strange objects at night at a greater distance. All reports describe sightings which occurred about 9.15 p.m. to 9.30 p.m. Two persons reported on Wednesday evening that they saw a strange bright object in the sky about this time.

"Yesterday another man reported seeing an object on Wednesday evening at 9.30 p.m. It was bigger and brighter than a satellite he said, and travelled across the sky and descended at an angle.

"Mr. P. T. Sheehan of Sumner reported that he and his wife saw an object three times on Monday, at 9.30 p.m., 10.10 p.m. and 10.30 p.m.

At 9.30 p.m. the object travelled rapidly from west to east, crossing from horizon to horizon in about four minutes. Forty minutes later it travelled from south to north at the same speed. Twenty minutes later it appeared again, much slower, oscillating in its movements from south to nor'west and appearing to be stationary at times.

"Meanwhile another report says a white object was seen in the sky off the Hinds coast about 9.15 p.m. on Wednesday by several persons. It moved north across the sky at a fast pace, its height being above 10,000 ft. It descended on an angle, and was reported to be oscillating or flashing at times.

"At 5.30 p.m. on Wednesday three men driving along Fendalton road reported seeing a shining object motionless in the sky in the direction of Darfield. The height was between 500 and 1,000 ft.

"The Meteorological Office reported a weather ballon was sent up at 5 p.m., but by 5.30 p.m. it would have been about 35,000 ft. and definitely out of sight. Further, the wind was blowing the wrong direction for a balloon released at Harewood to be sighted where the object was reported."

(Credit to David O. McGiffin of Christchurch, N.Z.)

Dunedin V-formation

The *Southland Daily News* of Invercargill carried the following account in its issue of January 22:

"A Dunedin Magistrate's Court officer is no longer a disbeliever in flying saucers. At 11.45 p.m. yesterday he saw about 12 bright orange-coloured objects flying in perfect V-formation over the city.

"The officer, who does not wish to be identified, said he was leaving the Justice Department buildings in Lower Stuart Street when he saw the objects emerge from the heavy mist over the city at that time.

"They were proceeding in V-formation, about six separate objects in each wing of the V, and travelling as fast or faster than a jet plane. There was no noise.

"The objects were not high as they flashed north and he says he saw them very clearly for about 4 sec. They were a definite circular shape and all the same size.

"A check with the RNZAF office and the control tower at Dunedin airport showed that no known flights were made over the city last night."—P.A.

LATE FLASH

Just as we closed for Press the news arrived that George Adamski had died at Washington, D.C. on 23rd April

STOP PRESS

MESSAGES FROM OUTER SPACE

The Russian claim to have detected, and to have *deciphered* messages reputed to come from a super civilisation in outer space, was widely publicised. The claim was received with considerable scepticism.

On reflection, however, it seems to this REVIEW that this new claim fits neatly into the general pattern of the Russian scene (see our article on page 15), and leads us to wonder if this is yet another instance of the apparent Russian intention to prepare the Soviet peoples for an announcement about the existence of extraterrestrial spacecraft.

On April 18, *The Observer* found an opportunity, when discussing this matter in an article entitled *Is somebody calling?*, to attack the FLYING SAUCER REVIEW.

THE FLORIDA CONTACT STORY

(see page 20)

In a reply to Dr. Bernard Finch, the U.S. Air Force declared that the report from Florida was an attempt to perpetrate a hoax. The 'hieroglyphics', a copy of which accompanied the Air Force letter, certainly appear to be bogus. More about this in our next issue.

MAIL BAG *(continued from page 26)*

last year a group of us here kept a detailed record of an object we observed orbiting the Earth each night. It behaved in such a manner that it could not be said to be any satellite of Earthly origin. It made 45° turns as it passed over; it would stop for 3 or 4 seconds before growing dim until it was no longer visible. On three occasions it crossed paths with either Echo I or Echo II. It went the wrong way, tending to hold a course more to the west of a north-south line.

Our investigation brought various answers: Smithsonian thought it might be part of a Saturn rocket. One face of the Air Force offered the idea of a secret Russian satellite (manoeuvering?). The other face of the Air Force suggested we were confusing planes and Echo satellites. A non-government source noted that each time Mars comes close to Earth in its orbit, astronomers note a strange satellite. Was this object noted over England? Appearance is comparable to Echo—the general speed and motion. Brilliance is more like that of the planet Jupiter.

We have heard rumours to the effect that this object was also observed passing over Boston, Miami, Japan and South America. None of these reports have been confirmed as yet.

watching a bird, a balloon or a cloud formation. And, since the height had been established as 700 miles, that was not news.

Do you care to offer any ideas?—Mrs. Helen G. Hartmann, 4666—27th Ave. No., St. Petersburg, Florida 33713, U.S.A.

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